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Front cover page: The Rs. 69 Crore Neyveli Lignite Integrated Project was inaugurated by Prime Minister Nehru on May 20, 1957. The picture shows a test pit dug under the pilot project.

Last cover page: An inside view of the South Mandapam in the ancient Meenakshi Amman Temple, Madurai.

A Board to Manage Power Undertakings

Governor's Address to the Joint Session of the Legislature

Addressing the first Joint Session of the Madras Legislature after the General Elections, the Governor of Madras, Sri A. J. John, revealed that the Government proposed to constitute an Electricity Board, which would take over the management of all the Government electricity enterprises. The day-to-day administration of the Electricity Department would become the responsibility of the Board, subject to the over-all supervision and control of the Government.

The Governor also stated that 23 new blocks under the Development Programme would be taken by next October.

The Governor said:

"The present session of this Legislature marks a new chapter in the history of Madras State and I deem it a great honour and privilege to be associated with you in its inauguration. Before I proceed with the address, please permit me on your behalf and on behalf of the people of this State, to place on record our greatful appreciation of the exemplary way in which my predecessor-in-office Shri Sri Prakasa, had discharged the functions of the head of this State for the past about 5 years. The void created by his departure in the political, social and cultural life of the State, is difficult to fill and I shall need all your sympathy, co-operation and prayers to attempt to do justice to the high office he had occupied with rare distinction.

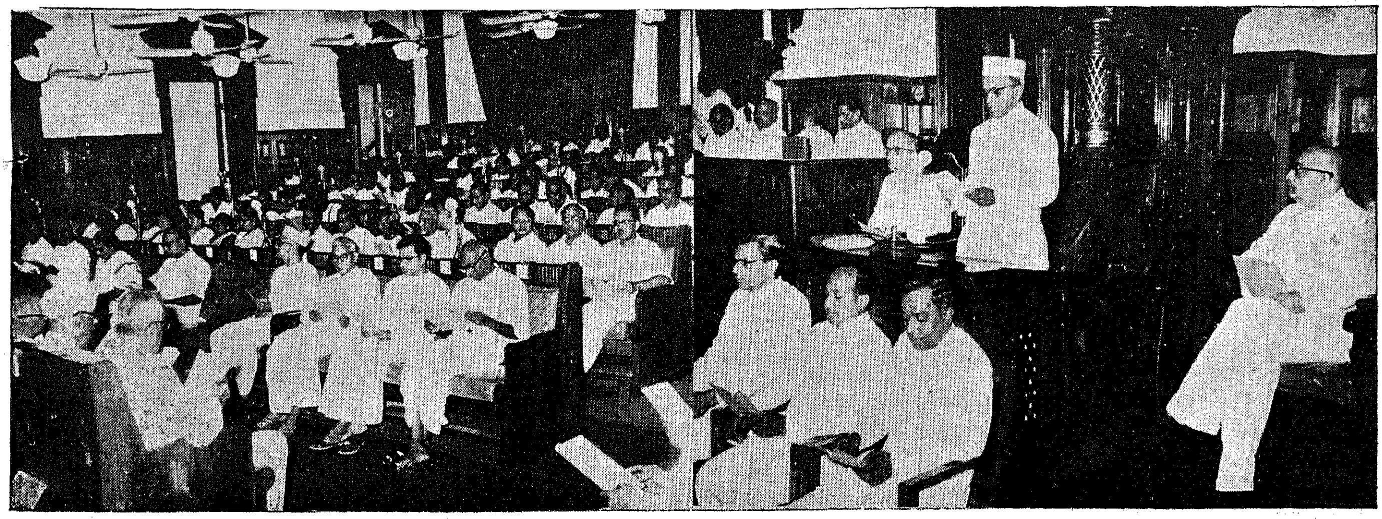
It is a matter for genuine satisfaction that the recent general elections went off without any untoward incident in a calm and impartial atmosphere. The credit for this goes to the general public who exercised their franchisein an orderly manner, to the different political parties who extended their willing co-operation and to the administrative machinery which discharged its onerous duties with quiet efficiency.

Dr. U. Krishna Rao, newly elected Speaker of Madras Legislative Assembly, acknowledging the greetings of the members after occupying the Speaker's chair. Sri B. Bhaktavatsalu, newly elected Deputy Speaker, is also seen by his side.

The Madras State has been further reduced in size since the last address, but we are happy that the long cherished hopes of our friends from Malabar, South Kanara and Kollegal have been fulfilled and that the parting has been smooth and easy. We welcome to our midst the people of the Kanyakumari area and assure them our wholehearted co-operation in the re-alization of their genuine hopes and aspirations.

The linguistic homogenity which we have now acquired, has enabled us to pass legislation adopting Tamil as the language for official purposes. A Committee has been constituted to advise on the steps to implement that legislation and it is the intention of the Government to pursue the matter with all possible expedition.

Seasonal conditions were generally fair last year and we have had a good harvest except in certain parts of the Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts. Relief measures such as the suspension of kist and loan instalments and the starting of small scale famine works have been organized in the affected areas. The summer showers expected at this part of the year, are holding out and this is impeding agricultural operations in many parts. Let us hope and pray that seasonal rains will set in soon and we will be blessed with another good agricultural year. The food position is on the whole satisfactory even though prices did not decline after the harvest, to the extent anticipated. The Government of India have assured us adequate supplies of rice to revive fair price shops whenever necessary and there is no cause for anxiety on the food-front.



Sri A. J. John, Governor, is seen here addressing a joint session of the Madras Legislature on May 1, 1957.

Law and Order is being maintained adequately and the heartening decline in the incidence of grave crimes, continues. The recent land legislations ensuring fixity of tenure and fair rents to the tiller, have improved the agrarian situation appreciably. It will however take time before these new and beneficient measures are adequately understood by the people in the countryside and accepted as part of the ordinary law of the land. In the meanwhile the Bhoodan movement initiated by Acharya Vinobhaji is preparing the ground for the next step in land legislation, namely, the fixation of a ceiling on land holdings. More than 250 villages have been voluntarily offered as Gramdhan in our State. The Government have appointed a Committee to investigate conditions in these villages and to make recommendations on the final settlement of the lands released for distribution.

Implementation of the Second Five-Year Plan continues to be the major pre-occupation of the Government. The actual expenditure on the Plan during the last financial year would amount to about Rs. 30 crores and we hope to improve on that performance during the current year. The Planning Commission has advised a ceiling of about Rs. 32 crores for the outlay during the current year and the necessary provisions will be made in the budget for 1957-58, which will soon come up for your consideration.

23 Development blocks by next October.

It is the intention of the Government to extend the Community Development and National Extension Services programme to the whole State as quickly as possible. This programme is now in operation in 110 blocks covering a population of 100 lakhs out of the total rural population of 257 lakhs and it is proposed to take up 23 more new blocks by next October.

The various schemes included in the Plan for the more intensive cultivation of the available land, such as the opening of new seed farms for the multiplication of improved strains of seed, the distribution of chemical fertilizers on credit, the supply of insecticides to eradicate pests, etc., are all making steady progress. The Key Village and other Schemes for the improvement of our cattle wealth, are being extended to many new centres and about 2,000 pedigree bulls will be distributed annually on subsidised terms. We have also made a start in developing our forest wealth through a well-laidout programme of soil conservation and regeneration in our extensive, but neglected panchayat forests. Measures are also being taken to step up rural credit and marketing facilities through the co-operative agency. An Expert Committee is now looking into the question of regulated markets for agricultural products and its recommendations will receive the careful consideration of the Government.

Electricity Board.

Our Major Irrigation and Power projects which absorb the bulk of the allotment in the State Plan, are all making encouraging progress. We have set up a creditable record in rural electrification last year by supplying power to about 1,250 villages and this has enabled about 12,500 new agricultural pump-sets to draw cheap power from the Grid towards growing more food. In keeping with the policy laid down by the Central Legislature on the subject, Government propose to constitute an Electricity Board which will take over the management of all our electricity enterprises. The day-to-day administration of the Electricity Department, which is being run on commercial lines, will in future be the responsibility of the Board, subject of course to the over all supervision and control of the Government.

On the side of the industries we may note with considerable satisfaction that the Neiveli Lignite Project of South Arcot, estimated to cost about Rs. 60 crores during the Plan period, will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister this

(Continued on page 11)

In Changing the Structure of Society

Need for a Psychological Approach

By Sri J. M. LOBO PRABHU, I.C.S.

When a country with a population of 350 millions is unified and endowed with the powers of a democracy, there are arrears of change to be cleared in everyone and everything. Even the comparatively short leap of two hundred years to catch up with the industrial revolution involves multitudinous adjustments in the ways of working and living, in town and country. The question first is about the pace of change. Apart from political and ethical consideration there is the very strong economic reason that unless change is massive and expeditious, it will be constantly reduced by increase in population. Only an appreciable rise in the standard of living can divert the masses from their only prerogative, that of procreation. If in economics, as in politics, the population does not leap to a new dimension, it will not move forward at all. It is imperative therefore that short cuts must be found for substantial changes.

Change can be achieved by one of three methods, first the democratic one of persuasion, second, the totalitarian one of force and third the natural one of psychological pressure. For a change to be based on persuasion, it is necessary for the population concerned to have first capacity to understand, second ability to undertake, and third conviction to persevere. Our masses, due to their bitter experiences, and utter destitution dare not change from habits which they consider are their life line. Even in villages, where development work is at the highest, the individual's way of life is not changed in the smallest details. Change through force carries the individual into a new dimension, which he has to accept and which he may ultimately appreciate. What happened in Russia and is happening in China was transformatory because men were treated like matter in the scheme of change. It has still to be seen if this process has not destroyed the impulse to reach constantly for higher things which is the meaning of civilisation. The change from psychological pressure, while having the tidal qualities of force, works with and not despite the minds of men. While the approach is still through persuasion, it is supported by the natural emotions and experience of the individuals and their communities. It reaches the common man where he is most susceptible, with the logic, not of words, but of facts.

It is curious, as it is sad, that none of our schemes take account of psychology. In every department, it is possible by proper psychological understanding, not only to reduce the effort required, but to enhance the results. An examination of some of our problems in respect of their psychological implications can indicate how we are taking the hard and long way, when the natural and quick one is available.

Problem of overpopulation.

The most overshadowing problem is that of overpopulation. Even if the figures of the last census have to be slightly discounted because the census was taken over a month and not over a day, there is no doubt that our birth rates far exceed the death rate, which has been reduced by the elimination of famine and improvement of public health. It is calculated that 1,000 mothers of today are bearing 1,452 mothers for the future. Our fertility rate is exceeded by perhaps one that of Japan. The psychological causes for this extravagance are first, the people is despair of life, which makes them think that children are an insurance. To the extent the State has become recently solicitous of providing employment, children are becoming assets to those who have nothing else. A second cause is the emptiness of life, which drives every man, as soon as the sun sets, to the darkness of his house and the arms of his woman. In the circumstances, can family-planning make an impression, when the contraceptive methods recommended, uncertain, difficult to comprehend and expensive, also reduce the only pleasure in the lives of the rural masses? In any case is it not necessary that they are supported by measures against the generic causes of overpopulation? In the old days, religion and custom had certain taboos, the purpose of which really was to reduce opportunities for procreation. As there is no prospect of reimposing these taboos, the only course is to understand and follow countries, which have reduced their population by natural means. The first of these is to ensure security of a certain standard of life. The masses will then have to choose between these standards, or the children who will reduce them. The second course is to add to the life of the common man, attractions, which compete with the sexual prerogative. An individual whose day is full with items which delight all his senses and employ all his powers will be more prone to give sexual gratification its reasoned place. We have therefore to let up on ideas of austerity, which makes existence dull and monotonous in favour of a full and joyous life.

The three media to enlighten people.

Education is a prophylactic against animal indulgence of the senses. It is true there is a dynamic policy for education now, but the question is, if it will be effective before overpopulation overwhelms the country. Both the volume and quality of education

deserve to be considered. Even if we succeed in the next ten years in making 20 per cent of the population literate, it is not only too small a proportion, but it will be for the most part ineffective for several years, until it reaches the stature to lead the public. In quality, our education, even at college level, rarely leads, as the word implies, the individual, out of himself. In fact, the decline in the study of humanities has tended to much ingrowing even in educated people. In the circumstances, we cannot expect literacy to dispose people to change their way of living and working. Other methods must be found to reach the large body of illiterate adults, who for many years will determine public thought. Some form of adult enlightenment is necessary as adult education has failed, and social education is making no impression. In the first place, the villagers must be informed of what is happening. There are three media, newspapers, radio and cinema. As far as the radio is concerned, existing experience is not encouraging, perhaps because reception is poor, or programmes unsuitable. In respect of newspapers, the benefit is confined only to the few who can read them. It deserves to be considered, if every village should not be supplied with a suitable paper, which the village officials should be bound to read to an assemblage of villagers. In respect of cinema, in the Madras State, the new rules have reduced the difficulties for touring talkies. It can be expected that within a few years, there will be no village more than five miles from a touring talkies. The influence of the cinema is, that it familiarises the villager to dimensions, other than his own. For the time, he is seeing a picture, the villager has a vicarious existence in other mores and morals. Imperceptibly he contrasts them with his own becoming increasingly susceptible to change. There is no single factor in village life today which dissolves prejudices and fears of the common man in the same measure as the cinema. In due course, the cinema will acquire the positive role of remoulding and remaking the common man's life.

The problem of poverty weighs on all other problems. In agriculture, the output is about half of what is possible. This is largely because the villager is afraid of changing his inherited methods. He can be pushed over by force, but it is also possible to pressure him psychologically through the values he respects. These are land, water and prices. If by some schemes, his expectations for these values are made dependent on his acceptance of the proper discipline, it is possible to transform the

Sri M. Bhakthavatsalam, Minister for Home, met top Police Officers at the Secretariat on May 5, 1957. The Home Secretary Sri Lobo Prabhu and the Inspector-General of Police are in the extreme right.

agricultural conditions, throughout the country, in two or three years, not only assuring the country of the food supplies it needs, but also increasing the incomes of the largest part of the population. The Planning Commission has already envisaged rights in land being dependent on good agriculture. In respect of water, which is supplied by Government, it is possible to select villagers who make the best use of their resources. In respect of price, an insurance of a minimum to those who follow the prescribed methods or agriculture, will not be a heavy commitment, while it will give the necessary encouragement for change.

A minimum wage could be transformatory.

Industry has not reached its legitimate stride because of the lack of purchasing power. In respect of factory production, the output can be multiplied, if the lower income groups could buy what is necessary for them. The recent increase in the pay of Non-Gazetted officials, which by the multiplier theory implies increase of purchasing power by five times, seems to have markedly stimulated trade and industry in the Madras State. A minimum wage, could be transformatory of our economy since it will place purchasing power, where it is needed most. The question is of finance for such measures. If food prices can be held, all the finance required can be created.

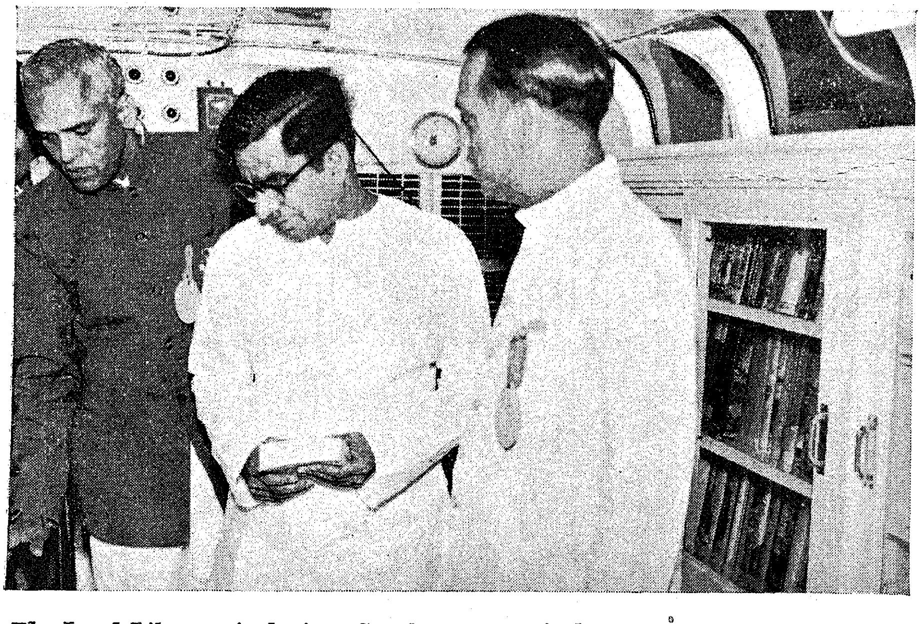
In respect of cottage industries, which seem so difficult to resuscitate, the problem is of market and prices. By far the most important market for cottage industries, exists in the villages themselves, if a programme for subsidized housing is undertaken. The present housing is not only against the comfort and health of the mass of villagers but reduces the scope of their life and aspirations. If only modest housing were provided the village craftsmen will have more than they can do. In respect of other industries, only the guarantee of State purchase at minimum prices for specified qualities, can regularly employ the craftsman. In the existing uncertainty, they must have high prices to cover the loss from interruptions and delay in demands.

Health is an important problem. There is no doubt that much is being done for medical relief, but insanitary conditions, poor diet and wrong personal habits maintain the stream of ill-health. Perhaps instead of building more hospitals we should provide drainage and water-supply to the village and houses and comforts to the villagers. Diet is most difficult to change but attractive eating places gradually turn people to new foods. In respect of personal habits there are far too many, which belong to the unscientific past. Schools could make changes for the new generations, if the subject could receive specific attention. But body health, also depends on the condition of the mind. At present, the villager has little to amuse him, and much to depress him. The recreation centres in development projects designed to add recreation to the life of the villager have been able to attract only a few. It was suggested that young and old could be attracted to sports and games, if the organisers of the Recreation Centres could allow betting on the results. The question is whether the end justified the means.

In almost all problems, it is possible to find psychological expedients which can convert apathy into enthusiasm. The task of the moment is to examine every activity with reference to the people it serves. The British left us a system which suited their administartion. We have to remould it to suit the people.

With or Without Dot

Some of the new decimal coins have a dot below the year of coinage on the reverse side and some have not. It has been surmised in certain quarters that one of these two types may be spurious. The fact is that there is an age-old practice of distinguishing between coins made in Bombay and those made in Calcutta. Bombay Mint coins have dots and Calcutta Mint coins do not have them. This was the practice even before the introduction of decimal coinage. In the approved design of decimal coins there was no mention either of there being a dot or there being none. Both the coins, with dots and without dots, are of the approved design and both are legal tender.



The Local Library Authority, Coimbatore, acquired a Mobile Library Van which was launched by Sri C. Subramaniam, Minister for Finance and Education, in the last week of April. The Minister is seen here inspecting the books along with Sri N. D. Sundaravadivelu, Director of Public Instruction, and Sri B. R. Krishnamoorthy, Chairman of the Local Library Authority.

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Guest House at Mahabalipuram

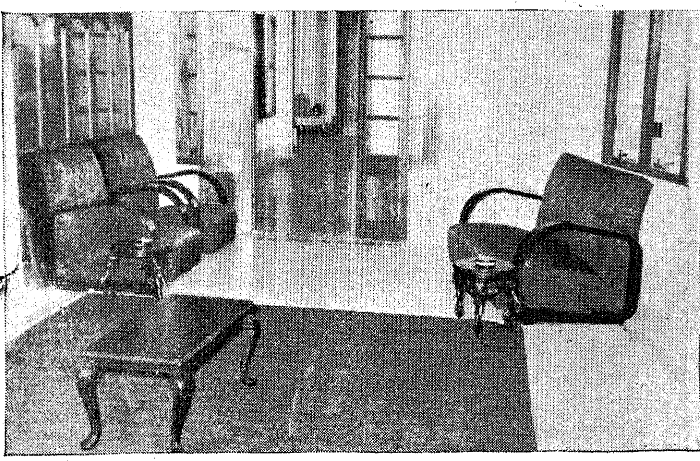
A Guest House was constructed at a cost of nearly three lakhs of rupees at Mahabalipuram and was declared open on the third week of May.

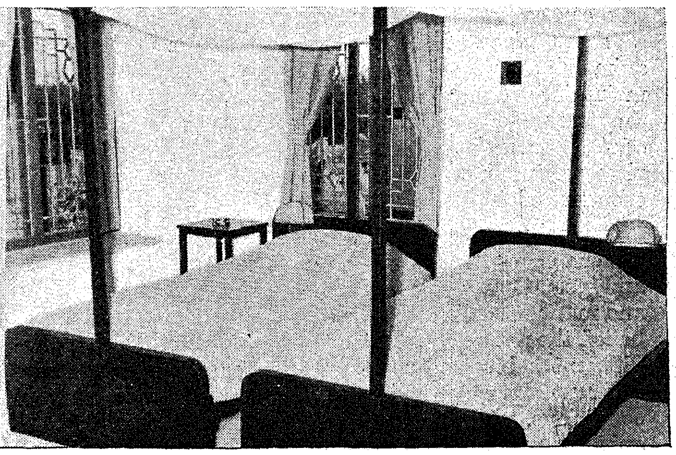
Mahabalipuram which is about forty miles from Madras being an important tourist centre attracts large number of tourists daily. The famous Pallava Architecture with rock cut caves, monolythic Rathas and sculptured mandapams demand closer study of the tourists and students of History.

The lack of proper accommodation on the spot was a big handicap and so the construction of this Guest House satisfies a long felt need.

There are six suites of rooms, four in the ground floor, and two in the first floor. Each suite consists of a front Verandah, a Bed Room, a Dressing and Bath Room, and an attached water closet room Each suite has been provided with running water, both hot and cold, and with modern sanitary conveniences. The Guest House has been furnished in a befitting manner, and it is expected that the Tourists will not find anything wanting by way of furnishing. Two more suites can be provided later on, if necessary in the first floor. The building commands a beautiful view of the sea, and the tourists, occupying the same, can enjoy the salubrious sea breeze in plenty. The building with an extensive land of about 2 acres and Casurina thopes costs about 2·88 lakhs, inclusive of the subsidiary buildings, approach road, etc. The Granite stones required for the building work had to be carted from Tirukazhikunram.

The Government of India have contributed Rs. 1·00 lakh towards the cost of construction.





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Sheep and Goats in the Economy of Madras State

By Dr. R. VIJAYARANGAM, Sheep and Goat Development Officer.

Madras State is the Home of many varieties of sheep and goats. The sheep are bred for wool and meat. The author in this article enumerates various breeds and special qualities of each breed. A clear picture of the efforts of the State Government to improve quality wool production by importing exotic breeds can also be had by reading the article.—Ed.

The sheep and goats play a great part in the rural economy of this State. While they supply meat and milk for food, wool for the production of warm clothing, high quality manure for agriculture and skins for the various uses of man, they are also readily transactable under village conditions. The villager does not find it difficult to convert them into ready cash by sale whenever he is in need of money for his domestic and agricultural purposes. So, more or less, these animals act as signed cheques to the villagers who can cash them at their will within a short time. Further, as these animals are easy to procure and maintain even by the landless poor, they are popular among all the sections of the rural folks. Thus these animals play an important part in the rural economy of the State.

Generally many people have got an erroneous idea that both sheep and goats have got the same habits and manners. Contrary to the popular belief, the nature has created them with different habits and temperaments for different purposes. Under normal conditions, while the sheep is a timid animal with less intelligence and entirely depending upon grass for its maintenance, the goat is a chooser of its feed due to its intelligence and lives on any green vegetation with the exception of a few of them. These animals are not intended by the nature to compete with each other. They can co-exist as the one does not go in for the feed of the other normally. The green pasture, the stubbles of harvests and the grass grown in fallow lands are admirably suited for sheep and generally unwanted by the goats. The shrubs, weedy plants and the green waste of all the trees form the feeds of goat. Thus they avoid competition prefering co-existence with a common idea of converting of all wastes into useful materials for the good of man.

Different varieties of Sheep.

Sheep are classified as hairy and woolly varieties and are known in Tamil as Semmari (செம்மறி) and Kurumbai (குரும்பை) respectively. The hairy sheep are good mutton producers and their skins are more valuable than that of woolly sheep. They are found all over the present Madras State and number about 71 lakhs. Sheep do not thrive well under heavy rainfall conditions and this is the reason for the absence of this animal in the west coast areas. The popular breeds of hairy sheep of this State are as follows :—

Nellore Sheep.

This is a hairy sheep with long legs weighing about 60 to 70 lb. on an average. The breed is confined to the district of Nellore and parts of Chingleput district. With the partition of Andhra, the bulk of the breed had gone to that State. Efforts are being made by the Madras State to develop this breed intensively in Chingleput district. A farm for the purpose is proposed to be established in the near future.

Mecheri or Mylambadi Sheep.

This breed is confined to Omalur and Dharmapuri taluks of Salem district and parts of Bhavani taluk of Coimbatore district. They are brown tinged white in colour with or without brown patches on the back. Fairly a good percentage of the rams are horned while the ewes are polled. Polled rams are preferred for stud purposes. They are fairly tall with stout legs and thick barrel weighing about 50 to 60 lb. on an average. Good rams at 4 teeth weigh about

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A herd of wool sheep at Hosur Livestock Farm.

80 to 100 lb. and animals weighing about 120 lb. are not uncommon in the breed tract. These animals do thrive well under extreme adverse seasonal conditions and fatten quickly when good grazing is available. Because of these qualities, they are in good demands in Dharapuram and other bordering taluks of Coimbatore, Madurai and Salem districts where the seasonal rains fail very often causing famine conditions.

Kilkarisil or Kilkarinji or Kuruvai Sheep.

Though this breed of sheep is found all over this State, they are in large numbers in the district of Ramanathapuram. There was a reduction in its number in this district due to the cyclone havoc during the last year. They are tall sheep with lean legs to their size and with a long and good barrel. They are red in colour with black colour underneath the bellies extending from chest to the abdomen and inside the legs. The rams are horned while the ewes are polled. The average weight of sheep in the district of Ramanathapuram and parts of Madurai district is about 50 to 60 lb. and there are rams weighing about 100 to 110 lb. They withstand migration of long distance of about 100 miles and more well in search of pasture. Hence they are preferred greatly in places where the availability of pasture is only seasonal and requires migration during the rest of the year.

Mandya Sheep

This breed is named after the Mandya district of Mysore State where the bulk of the sheep are found. It is popularly known as Bannur sheep in Mysore State. In Madras State they are confined to Hosur taluk of Salem district. These are all short animals with thick legs, stout barrel and grey in colour with red or brown head extending up to neck. The rams are generally horned and the ewes polled. Breeders prefer polled rams for stud purposes. These animals are not intended for walking long distances and are brought generally under semi stall-fed conditions in the breeding tract. They respond to fattening quickly. The average weight of these animals is about 50 to 60 lb. and the best of them weigh up to 130 lb.

An intensive grading scheme for the development of this sheep in Hosur taluk in Salem district is in operation for the past 4 years and

considerable progress has been made in this regard.

Woolly Sheep.

The woolly sheep of this State are confined to the districts of Coimbatore, Salem, Tiruchirapalli, Madurai, South Arcot, North Arcot and Nilgiris. These woolly sheep can be classified as follows :—

Nilgiris breed.

This breed is confined to the taluks of Ootacamund and Coonoor in the Nilgiris district. A few of them have been introduced some time back in Kodaikanal taluk of Madurai district. These are medium sized fine woolly sheep weighing about 40 to 45 lb. on an average, and some of the rams of Government Sheep Farm, Ootacamund, weigh as much as 110 lb. The average weight of ram at 4 teeth at the Government Sheep Farm is about 65 to 80 lb. whereas they weigh about 45 to 50 lb. under the village conditions. The average wool yield of the sheep is about 1 to 1½ lb. of high class wool which worth about Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 per lb. The Government have started a sheep farm for the intensive development of the breed with a view to standardize the quality and increase the quantity of wool. This farm had recently been included as a sub-centre under All-India plan by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for improving the fine quality of wool, useful for manufacture of high class fabrics. Till recently selective breeding was undertaken at this farm and a scheme had recently been sanctioned for undertaking cross-breeding with Romney Marsh breeds imported from Australia. These imported rams weigh about 150 lb. on an average and yield about 10 lb. of wool.

Coimbatore breed.

This is confined to Palladam, Coimbatore and Pollachi taluks of Coimbatore district and parts of Madurai district. They are white in colour with black or brown heads extending up to the neck, with compact body weighing about 30 to 40 lb. on an average. The wool is coarse and useful for the manufacture of fine cumblies and rough carpets. The average wool yield of the animal is about 1½ to 2 lb. per annum and they are shorn only once a year. As these animals are found to be superior to the other local sheep of the plains, the rams of this breed are used in the other woolly sheep areas of this State for grading up the black woolly sheep.

A Sheep Breeders' Co-operative Society was established a few years back in Soundararajapuram near Bodinaickanur of Madurai district. Considerable progress has been made in grading up the local sheep with that of the Coimbatore ram.

Tiruchirapalli sheep.

This breed is found in the districts of Tiruchirapalli, Salem, South Arcot, North Arcot and parts of Madurai. They are small animals weighing about 30 to 35 lb. with black coarse wool. These animals are shorn twice a year and the total quantity of wool yielded by each animal for both the clips comes to about 1 to 2 lb. This wool is useful for manufacturing rough cumbly.

The Australian sheep which are acclimatised in Hosur Livestock Farm.

White wool is always preferred and fetches better price as it can be dyed to produce attractive designs of materials which will naturally attract better market giving better profit margin. So the State Government have undertaken various programmes to improve the quality and quantity of wool produced in this State. Several schemes are being sponsored with the aid of the Central Government and Indian Council of Agricultural Reserach for intensive development of woolly sheep of Madras under the Second Five-Year Plan.

Better and cleaner production of wool, grading and marketing according to colour and quality, also fetch more return to a breeder of woolly sheep. Losses of life and lowering of the value of skins of all sheep due to internal and external parasites are avoidable by better care and management, taking timely action and administering suitable drugs. Reduced lamb mortality can be effected by adjusting the lambing season to favourable climatic conditions. This can be effected by allowing their rams with the ewes only during certain periods of the year and then removing the rams from the flock during the rest of the period. The sheep wealth of the State can be increased greatly by avoiding wastage, untimely mortality due to contagious and non-contagious diseases. As sheep are owned mostly by uneducated people with conservative views, the Government had taken necessary steps to carry the news and help to the very doors by employing several Sheep Demonstration Units in different parts of the State. There are seven such units now located in different parts of the State. It is hoped that the people will utilize their help to the fullest extent possible.

Recently the Government have sanctioned one farm near Chingleput for conducting Research on better mutton and skin production of sheep of this State. It is proposed to undertake pure breeding of Nellore type of sheep as well as cross-breeding with Somaliland and Dumba breeds of

rams. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research had agreed to contribute financially to a certain exent.

Another Farm had also been sanctioned recently by the Government of Madras called Sheep Breeding and Wool Research Station, Chinnasalem. The farm will be located in an area bordering South Arcot and Salem districts with an extent of about 1 700 acres. It is proposed to undertake research to improve the quality and quantity of wool produced by the black woolly sheep of Madras State. Incidentally this will be one of the biggest Sheep Breeding Research Stations in India. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is also taking keen interest to establish this farm by its contribution, as the results of research undertaken at this farm will go a long way to produce finer and more wool in India.

As new type of wools are produced in this State, it is also essential to bring in change in the types of implements, etc., used as otherwise the traditional implements and methods of production will not only become out of date, but also will become useless and unremunerative. The Government, taking cognizance of this fact had already sanctioned a scheme to run a wool utilization centre wherein arrangements are made to teach the persons engaged in this trade the better method of utilizing the wool produced with better implements.

Sheep are fumigated to preserve quality of wool. Spraying method is one usually adopted.

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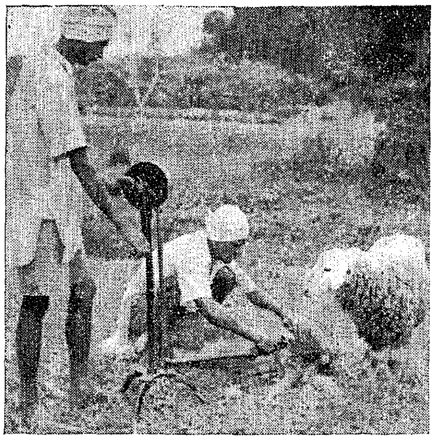


The clipping of wool is a two-man business. This simple device helps to remove the wool without much harassment to the sheep.

Goats.

The goats of Madras State are nondescript in character. The previous two districts of West Coast contain a breed called 'Malabar Goats' which are good milk yielders. They are docile and economical to maintain and yield about 2 to 5 lb. of milk a day on an average. Efforts are being made by the State Government to popularize this goat in the other parts of this State with a view to augment the production of milk economically.

Goats of this breed were stationed at the District Livestock Farm, Malabar, and a limited number of good bucks for stud purposes were made available at reasonable cost for cross-breeding the nondescript goats of other areas of the State, as long as that district was with Madras State. With the partition there is difficulty in getting the necessary stock from there to Madras State. Efforts are being made to procure as many male stock as possible from that farm by negotiation with the Government of Kerala State.

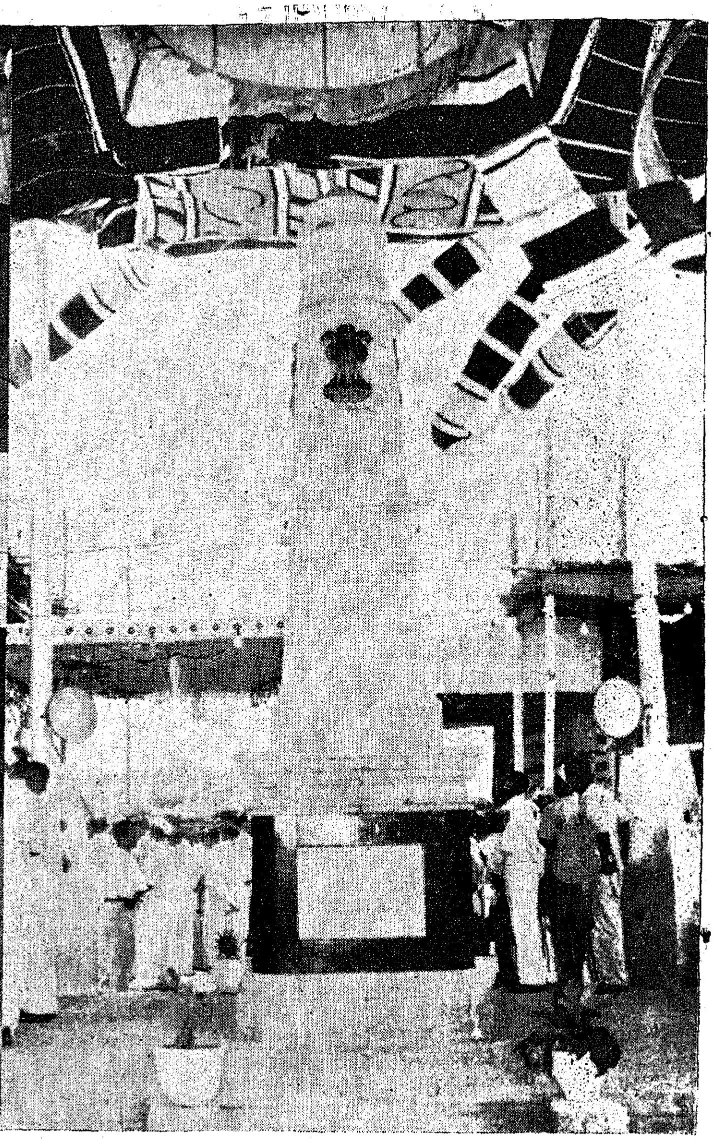
In short, the Government had not only neglected the sheep, goat and wool industry, which industries were neglected till recently, but also had taken all steps to put them on sound basis in future. It is hoped that much progress will be made on these lines to the better economy of this State in particular and India in general.

(*Continued from page* 3)

month. (The project was inaugurated on May 20 by the Prime Minister). The first stage of this Project is expected to be completed by 1960 and large blocks of thermal power will be available thereafter to strengthen our hydro-electric grid and to promote new industries. Work on the new industrial estates at Guindy, Virudhunagar and Erode is making rapid progress and about 30 factory units for small-scale industries will be available presently. The miscellaneous small industrial units initiated by the Government for the manufacture of articles like footwear, matches, locks, electrical goods, scientific instruments, furniture, etc., are coming into production. The main purpose of these units is to train personnel in these crafts so that the increasing requirements of private enterprise may be met locally. The Industries Department has also initiated several schemes for the development of handicrafts and local village industries. The machinery for State aid to industry is being strengthened so that cheap credit may be made available to village artisans. It is the intention of the Government to pursue these and other measures with vigour so as to foster an industrial climate in the countryside in quick time. The needs of the handloom industry continue to receive the close attention of the Government and the sums released from the Cess Fund for the stabilization of this vital cottage industry are being made full use of.

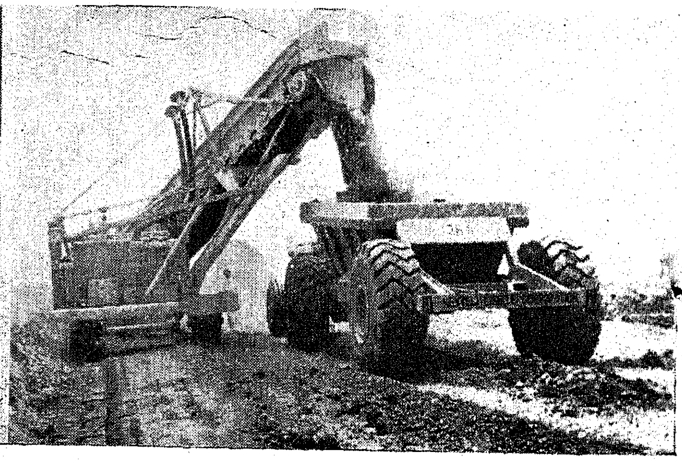
In the field of education the programme of opening new schools whereever possible and strengthening existing schools, is being continued. The report of the Committee of the Legislature on education has been received and the recommendations are now under the active consideration of the Government.

The welfare of Harijans and other backward classes continue to receive the close attention of the Government and the tempo of the various ameliorative measures will be accelerated. A start will also be made presently on a programme of slum clearance for which a provision of about Rs. 1½ crores has been made in the Plan."

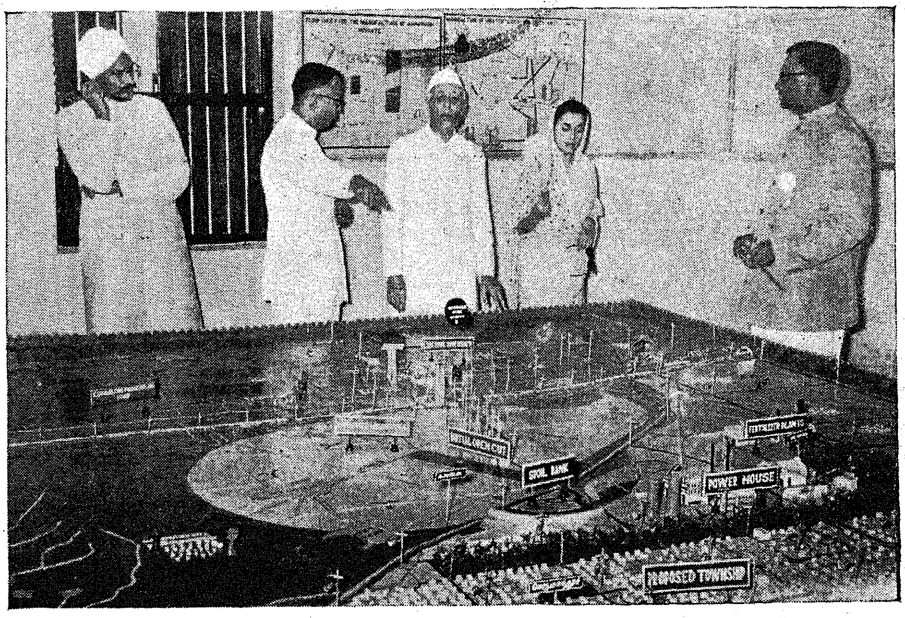


Sri Jawaharlal Nehru unveiling the granite obelisk by means of a push-button. The obelisk is in commemoration of the inauguration of the Integrated Lignite Project, Neyveli.

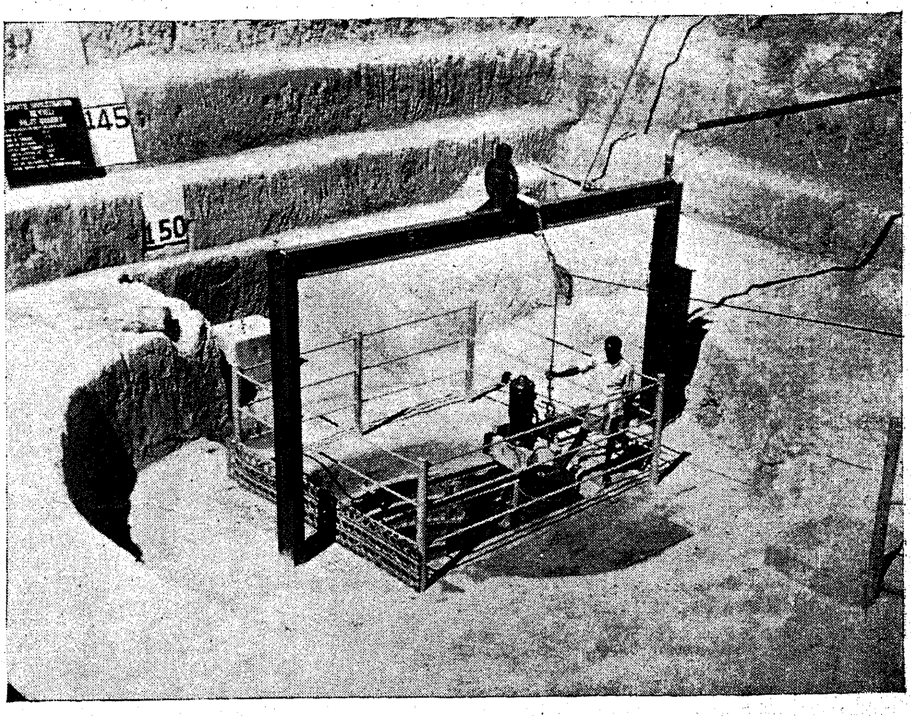
FUTURE HOPE OF THE SOUTH



Giant earth-moving machines have started cutting the mine-face at Neyveli. These scraper loaders can cut and load earth at 900 cubic yards per hour.



Sri T. M. S. Mani, Managing Director, Neiveli Liginite Corporation, showing a model of the Integrated Liginite Project, Neyveli on 20*th May* 1957, *to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.*



Under the pilot scheme open cut pit was dug up to 150 *feet and then by digging a well, lignite was extracted for test purposes.*

The mining scheme in the Integrat ed Lignite Project was inaugurated by Prime Minister Nehru in the last week of May.

The 69-crore project provides for the mining of 3½ million tons of lignite per annum. About 2½ tons of raw lignite would be equivalent in thermal value to a ton of good coal. The annual target of production will therefore be equivalent to a little over a million and a quarter tons of good coal.

As industrial development in the State was retarded largely owing to want of electric power, and power is needed for the development of agriculture as well, and as the most economic utilization of lignite is to use it as fuel in boilers close to the mine itself, the generation of electric power is the most important constituent scheme in the Integrated Project. The installed capacity of the Thermal power station will be 200,000 KW. and, in addition, there will be back pressure turbine plant in conjunction with other production units. The project report for the lignite-burning Thermal Station has been prepared by a Planning Cell of the Central Water and Power Commission, on behalf of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation, and submitted to the Government of India.

It has been decided that the Fertilizer plant in the project should produce the entire quantity of fertilizers, with a nitrogen content of 70,000 tons per annum, in the shape of urea only. The urea plant will probably be one of the largest in the world. The planning of the scheme is in progress.

It is expected that the plant will be ready to go on stream by July or August 1960, by which time Lignite mining in commercial quantities is also scheduled.

The standing Committee of Technical Experts on the Neyveli Lignite Project, has completed its studies on various alternative possibilities in connection with the Fertilizer part of the project.

As a result of the intensive studies already carried out by the panel of technical experts, the need for preparation of project reports by the appointment of foreign firms has been eliminated. It has been decided that no overall consultants need be appointed at present for the fertilizer part of the project. Broad specifications of the main groups of plant would, therefore, be drawn up and tenders asked for package supplies of gassification and Co-conversion plant, ammonia synthesis plant and the urea production plant.

The Conference that was Different

Pagalmedu First Step in the Mass Contact Campaign

A conference completly different from those hitherto held was convened at Pagalmedu in Uthukottai Development Block in the second week of last month. This conference was different because the common man was the speaker and the Chief Minister, officials and dignitaries were the audience. There was not the usual sermon to The people at this conference; no axioms were said; no maxims were laid down for the common folk to follow. For the first time perhaps in the history of democracy, the rulers submitted themselves to hear the *vox populi,* shorn of the trappings of democratic process; not only that this conference also brought the people and the officials face to face, with the chief representative of the people right in the midst.

The villagers were not taken aback. They proved on that day that they were shrewd and intelligent. They formed a long queue and enumerated their difficulties boldly, suggested improvements, gave praise where it was due and did not mince words when criticism was called for. Many of them, speaking perhaps for the first time with the aid of sound equipment, made it obvious, and what they said really mattered with the powers that be and therein lay the success of the conference. The villagers realised at Pagalmedu that the popular Government was really serious in bettering their lot and that they could effectively participate in the Community Development programme.

The Community Development work has been under operation for well over ten years. Immediately after the popular Government took over the reins of administration, the village was given prime consideration. To begin with, under the names of Firka Development and Rural Welfare, laying of village roads, construction of new buildings for schools were undertaken in large measure. Improved seeds and fertilisers were distributed to ryots under Grow More Food Campaign. In short, all efforts were made to improve the standard and living conditions of the villagers.

Now the Community Development Programme based on an all-India level is under operation under two categories—Community Projects and National Extension Services. Food production has been increased by 20 per cent, through official inspiration and responsive co-operation from the ryots. Villages are connected to main roads, community centres and school buildings are springing up everywhere. Medical and maternity facilities are available even in remote villages. No doubt, the countryside is pulsating with a new life. But, can it be said that the benefits accruing to the people are commensurate with the money and man power deployed by the Government? Is it not possible to get better results?

Chief Minister, Sri K. Kamaraj, gave serious thought to these questions immediately after he took over the portfolio of Community Development in the new Ministry. He made an announcement that he would meet the villagers of the Uthukottai Block at Pagalmedu and assess their needs personally.

The Chief Minister felt the urgent need for very close contact between the Government and the people at all levels. Even though there was a considerable amount of enthusuiasm generated in the people, still it was felt that the implementation of the Programme faced certain bottle-necks and difficulties chiefly in the shape of either misunderstanding or inadequate-understanding on the part of the officials and non-officials alike. Thus the Block Development Officers had not succeeded in making the people realise that the Programme was their own, to be thought of an implemented by themselves with the assistance of the Government agency at the block level. Likewise, on the part of the people there was not that realisation that the initiative and effort for all programmes under the Community Development and National Extension Service Schemes must spring up in the first instance from the peoples level. In many instances the common man was under the impression that the thinking for this Programme should be essentially that of the Block Development Officer and his staff and that he would come in only for purposes of contribution, etc., required for many works and schemes. The Chief Minister was most anxious to contact the people directly and ascertain from them whether they had themselves met together and considered what they required for raising the standing of living in their village and increasing its earning potential, and what they themselves should do in the first instance to realise their aspirations. At the same time it was also his intention to find out from the various officials in the block whether they have tried to contact the people and assist them effectively in the realisation of their aspirations. It was his desire to point out to the people that unless they are prepared to work hard and come forward to do their bit it will be difficult for the block level agency to do everything for them. Likewise it was also his desire to point out to the block officialsthat unless they make themselves one with the common man and show them that they are prepared to assist them in every way, it will be difficult to get the public participation in its fullest measure.

Apart from establishing mass contact it was also the desire of the Chief Minister to cut down red tape at all levels and make things move with more speed especially in regard to the implementation of the Schemes not

13 JUN 1957

On-the-Spot Decisions on Development Works

only under the Community Development and National Extension Service Programme, but under the Second Five-Year Plan in general.

Chief Minister's Call.

Chief Minister Kamaraj spoke first. He told the villagers who had gathered in thousands that he came there to hear their grievances personally and seek the remedy as far as possible immediately. His aim was to make people repose confidence in the Government and to make them realise that it was the Government of the people, by the people, for the people.

The villagers should know their requirements well. If the people of neighbouring villages assembled, argued and threshed out their problems, it would not be difficult for them to assess the needs of the Community in a collective manner. It might not be possible for the same village to have a school, a hospital and a seed farm. They could come to an understanding and decide on having one for each village and depend on neighbouring villages for other facilities. It would be easier for the Government to implement schemes, if there was understanding and unanimity among the villagers, and economise expenditure.

Forty years ago, the Father of the Nation devoted most of his time to assess the needs of the villages. His programme was the basis on which they worked for the improvement of the village. Should they not bestow their thoughts now to finish what was left over then? It was no good to docilely accept what was shoved on them from a top. They should ponder over, decide and demand what they wanted. Money was not the prime consideration.

To the officials, who were present in full force, he said that their task was to gain the confidence of the villagers. Once they succeeded in gaining their confidence, many a great thing could be easily achieved. The sympathy and confidence of the villagers could be achieved if the officials went to them often and attend to their needs and difficulties immediately.

The Chief Minister told the gathering that excitement was necessary for creative work. The villager should feel that he was important if he was ever going to be enthusiastic about the Development work. The village elders also should not commit the mistake of not inviting the less fortunately placed for consultations. To make them feel that the Government was only for the rich and men of influence would be most injurious to the success of democracy.

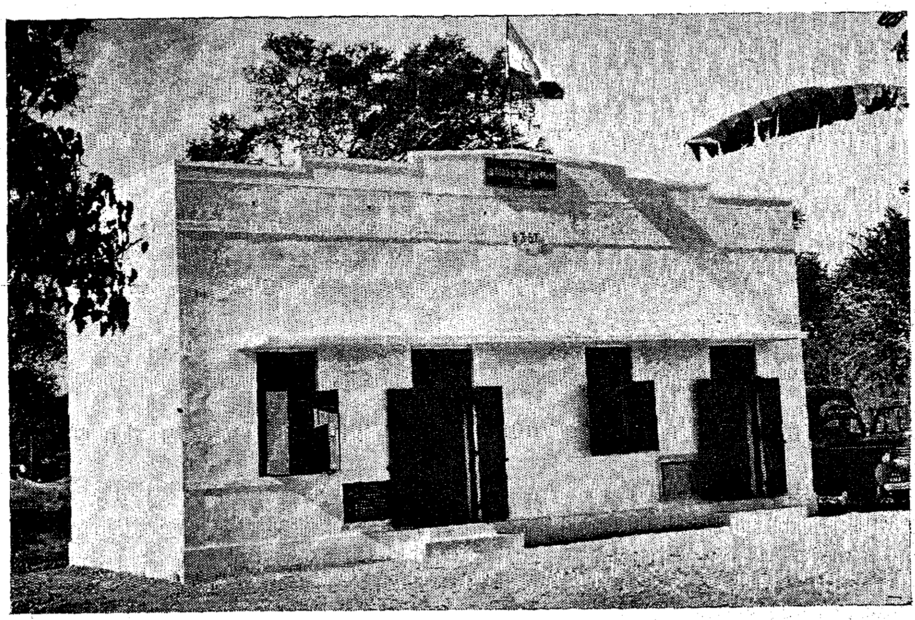
Every facility was given under the Community Development Programme. It was up to the villagers to make best use of those schemes to better their lot.

The Villagers Speak.

Nearly fifty villagers including two women came forward to represent the grievances of the community. They spoke frankly and with confidence. One villager made a tremendous impression by telling that there was not a single literate in his village. He strengthened his claim by presenting a petition not with the signatures but thumb-impressions of 36 villagers. Another villager asked for a village road and added that it should be constructed completely at Government's cost. He put forth a pathetic plea that all in his village were poor and struggling for existence from day to day.

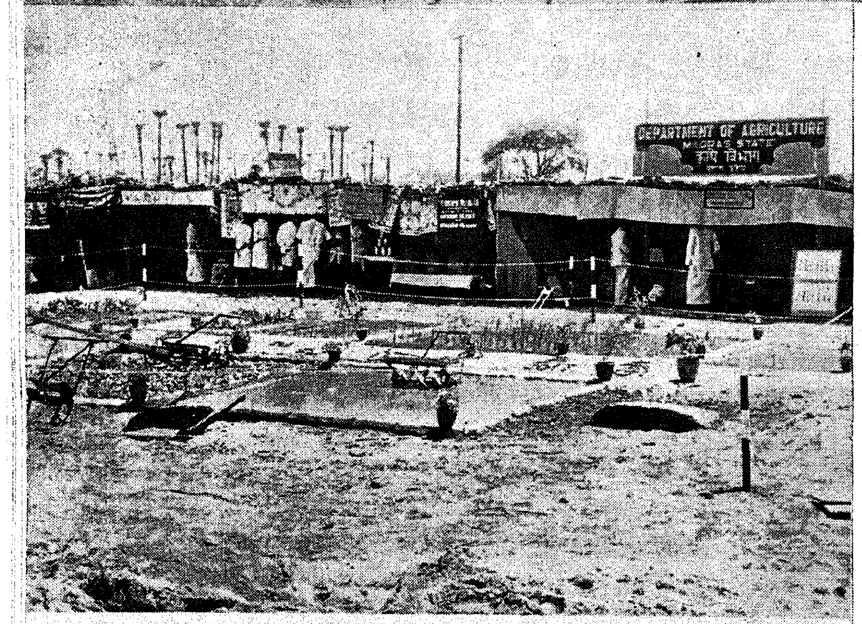
" Even God has forsaken my village. It is so near Madras, yet so far removed. Thirty years ago, attempts to connect the village by a road was thwarted by the villagers themselves on the plea that the peace and tranquillity would be disturbed for ever by the so-called civilised people from the city ", said a villager.

(*Continued on page* 32)



The Pakkam Multi-purpose Co-operative Society in Tiruvallur taluk constructed a godown at its own initiative. The godown was declared open by Sri A. Palaniappa Mudaliar, Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

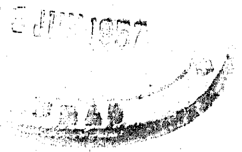
PAGALMEDU CONFERENCE



Pagalmedu Conference the first of its kind convened by the Chief Minister to have mass contact and to make people take active interest in the Community Development Programme proved a great success.

The pictures show the villagers, both men and women, enumerating the needs of the villages and suggesting ways to make the programme reach the people quicker.

The Chief Minister Sri K. Kamaraj who called upon villagers to boldly put forth suggestions also declared open a village exhibition, and met Block officials.



13 AUG 1957

To Overcome the Inertia of villagers

Sri S. K. Dey's Call to officers

The Union Minsiter for Community Development, Sri S. K. Dey, made a two-day tour of Tanjore District in the second week of April for an on-the-spot study of the operation of the Development Programme. Sri Dey, covered a distance of about 160 miles in a cross-country tour of Papanasam, Thruthuraipundi, Kannilam, Mayuram, Sirkali and Kumbakonam taluks. Sri M. G. Rajaram, Additional Development Commissioner and Sri V. Karthikeyan, Collector of Tanjore, accompanied the Minister

Declaring open an over-head tank at Ammapet, Sri Dey stressed that excitement was essential for creating work. He noted with satisfaction the considerable volume of public enthusiasm among the villagers, as a result of which, the countryside is humming with new life.

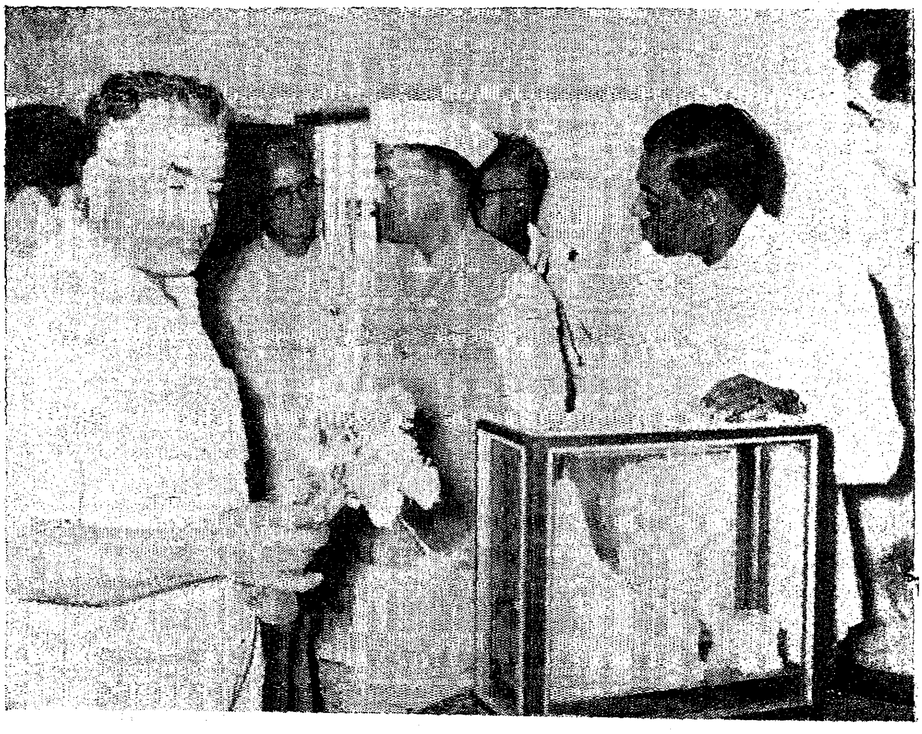
A model village, Allathambadi in Thiruthuraipundi Block impressed the Union Minister much. This village has, among other things, a cattle upgrading centre, a poultry unit, fodder grain farm, a *Goshala* and a bee-keeping centre. New buildings have been constructed for the village school and dispensary. The Minister paid tributes to the villagers and officials responsible for making the village a model one in the true sense.

Sri Dey, who had informed that he would not receive garlands or bouquets during his tour, had a pleasant surprise waiting for him at Thiruthuraipundi in the form of a garland made of pith. The garland and bouquet presented to him looked like those made of natural flowers. The inquiring Minister was told that pith works was a special craft of Tanjore district and the raw material was a water-plant root available in abundance in local ponds. Once a flourishing cottage industry it was almost extinct until quite recently when a training centre was started to revive it under the Community Development Scheme. The Community Deveopment officials came upon a man, who was eking out his livelihood as an "Ameena" in the local munsif court and made him instructor of the institute. About twenty-five trainees were receiving instuction at the Centre. The Union Minister was very happy at the discovery of the artist and very much wished that people in other parts of India should come to know and appreciate this artistic cottage industry.

Sri Dey met the representatives of Youth Clubs, Women's Associations, Panchayats and Educational institutions and discussed with them the problem of making more and more people participating in the rural reconstruction activities. He met the officials of the District at a conference and discussed with them the problems arising out of the supply of Community Radio sets, execution of Harijan Welfare Schemes and the low percentage of people's contribution.

He appealed to the legislators and members of the District Board, who met him, not to ask for a reduction in the people's contribution. He emphasised that it was their duty and responsibilty to see that the people took active and emotional interest in the development work.

At Aduthurai, the Minister met the Gramasevak trainees and exhorted them to face the rural problems with missionary zeal and determined effort. He said: "The counrty folk are still in slumber like the proverbial Kumakarna. Numerous methods should be adopted for waking them up. Once their inertia is overcome, a great deal of energy will be forthcoming and that energy can be canilised for all-round progress."



Sri S. K. Dey was presented with a pith model of Tanjore temple during his visit to Tanjore. He is seen here in the Centre

13 JUN 1957

Commercial Parboiling of Paddy

Economical Method Suggested

The practice of parboiling of paddy is an ancient discovery of our country developed by our forefathers to improve the milling properties and the nutritive value of rice and it is now developed as a major food industry in the rice growing regions of India. In spite of its being the oldest and the most widespread food industry, the status and organisation of the industry are at a low level. This is chiefly due to the fact that the quality of the rice produced is bad. As prepared by the traditional methods the rice has a fermented off-flavour and taste and because of the high residual moisture content left behind in the rice, it develops a mouldy smell when stored even for short periods.

The indigenous method of parboiling has been improved, patented and completely mechanised in Western countries. Similar mecchani sation of all the steps in the parboiling of paddy in India is not likely to be popular at present as heavy investment on machinery is needed. Moreover complete mechanisation will reduce opportunities of employment. In spite of these practical difficulties in improvement of quality of parboiled rice by complete mechanisation, modifications of existing procedures as will improve substantially the quality of the rice but do not need costly new equipment are possible and have been investigated by this Institute.

Cause of bad smell in current methods of parboiling.

Two general methods—The "Cold Soaking" and the "Hot Soaking" processes—are now in vogue for commercial parboiling of paddy. In the former method, paddy has to be soaked in cold water for 2-3 days to allow the paddy to imbibe water completely. Even if the soak water is changed frequently, fermentation and bad smell cannot be avoided. In the "hot soaking" method as adopted at present, although the soaking time is reduced to 24 hours, the fermentation and bad smell are not avoided but accentuated because of the warm temperature (30–40°C) of the tank contents.

Principle of the proposed method.

If the temperature of the tank contents is raised to about 70°c, the absorption of water by the paddy is fast and hence the soaking time can be reduced to about 3-4 hours. As a result of the short soaking time and the high temperature of the tank, fermentation and bad smell are completely avoided. After soaking the paddy in the hot water and after draining out the soak water, if all the paddy in the soaking tank could be steamed in the tank itself in one batch without having to transfer it to the steam kettles a saving in time and labour could also be effected. The above principle is made use of in the method developed by this Institute.

Fitting a steam distributor to the soaking tank.

In order to achieve a uniform distribution of steam during the preheating of the soak water as well as during the subsequent steaming of the soaked paddy a steam distributor should be fitted to the soaking tank itself. A simple type of steam distributor that is sufficiently satisfactory is shown in Fig. 1. As can be seen from the figure the central shaft is assembled from galvanised iron T-tubes and collars while the side tubes are composed of galvanised iron tubes with perforations 1′ to 6″ apart. The cost of assembling such a steam distributor to suit a tank of 9′ x 9′ x 7′ capacity would be about Rs. 400. The actual details of the procedure for parboiling are given in the following suggested method which has been worked out as a result of several large scale parboiling trials.

Standardized method for parboiling.

Sufficient water as will allow complete submerging of the paddy is let into the soaking tank and is heated by steam to about 80—85°C. Then the paddy bags by now stacked all around on the walls of the soaking tank—are opened and the paddy is quickly emptied into the soaking tank. The upper layers are paddled and the hollow grains floating on the water surface are skimmed off. When the resulting temperature of the tank contents is 70°C, the steam is shut off and the paddy is allowed to soak for 3—4 hours depending on whether the paddy is fine or coarse-grained.

At the end of the soaking period, the water is drained out through a valve at the bottom of the tank and with the valve still in the open position, steam is let in through the distributing coils until the paddy is parboiled to the right degree as judged by its reaching the bursting stage. The emergence of steam from the top of the tank is an indication that the contents of the tank have had the heat treatment required just to gelatinise the rice. When the grains at the top of the tank begin to split, steam is shut off and after allowing the paddy to cook for about 10 minutes, it is shovelled out and spread for drying. If it is desired to give a marked tinge of yellow colour to the rice (as preferred by consumers especially on the West Coast of India), the paddy is heaped overnight and dried the next day.

Soon after steaming, the paddy has to be removed from the soaking tank and not left in; otherwise, there is the danger of overcooking and colour

development in the rice. Thus arises the need for evolving an easy method of emptying the hot paddy from the tank. In our trials, so far, the hot paddy is manually shovelled from within the tanks, the workman being provided with heat resistant footwear. This expedient, for the present, has obviated the need for major modification in the construction of the tank and permits the use of existing tanks. The ideal thing would, however, be to construct the soaking tank about 2-3 feet above the ground level with a manhole at the bottom; then the paddy can be easily tapped from the soaking tank by gravity. A different type of steam distributor that will permit a more even steam flow and parboiling of the paddy can be fitted into such a tank.

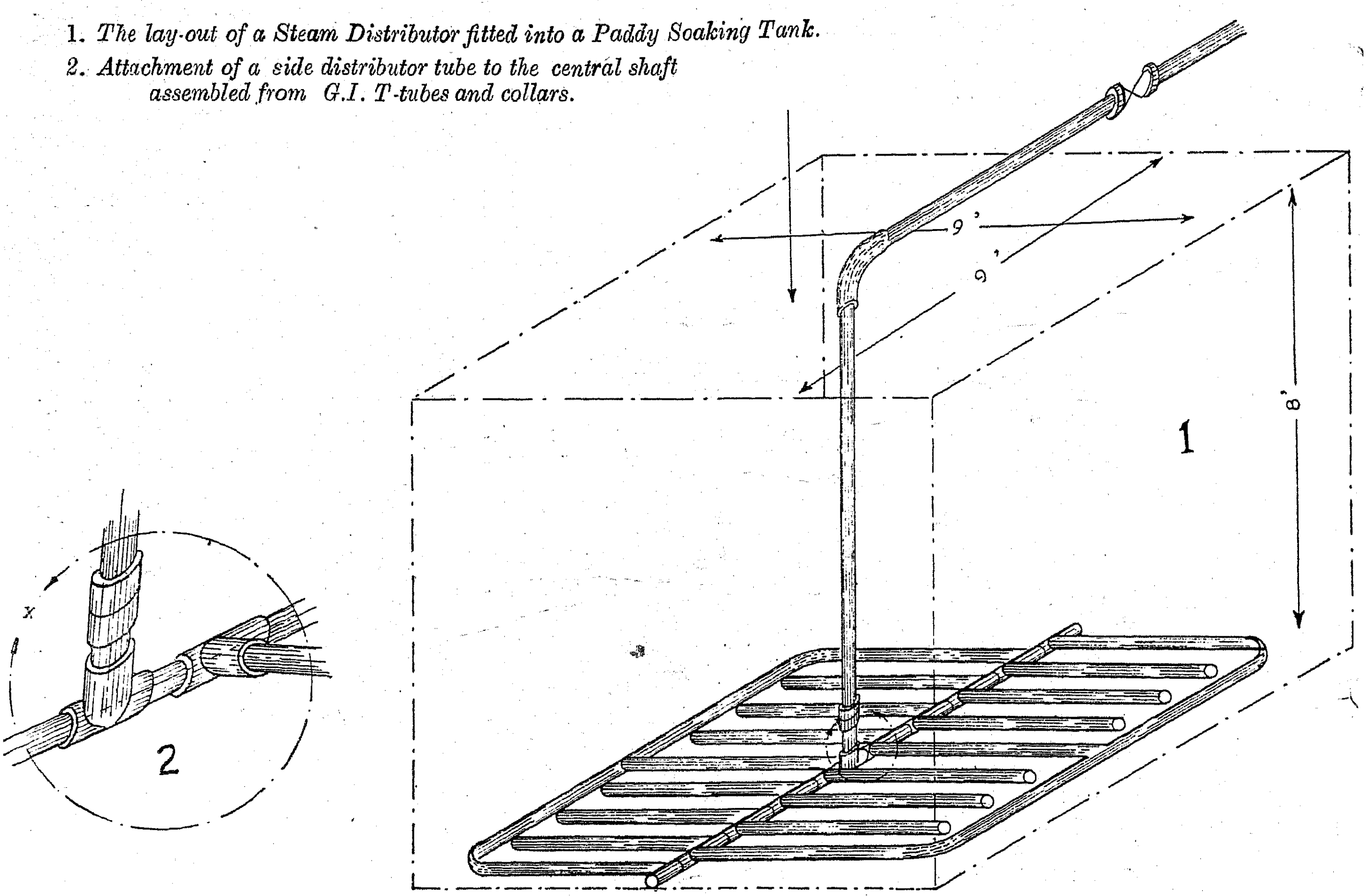
Advantages of the modified method over the current methods.

The proposed method combines a number of advantages. Firstly, as already stated, the high soaking temperature and the short soaking time completely eliminate the fermentation and bad smell in the rice. Secondly, the entire batch of paddy can be soaked, steamed and dried in a single day, an advantage of decided value to businessmen when they have to parboil paddy at short notice or in larger quantities to meet the market demands. Thirdly, there is also saving in labour costs because the soaking and subsequent steaming are carried out in the same tank. The total time of steaming in the proposed method is also found to be not more than that involved in the current "Cold Soaking" or "Hot Soaking" methods. When the paddy is soaked in large bulk, there appears to be conservation of heat which is not possible when the paddy is steamed in small batches. Most important of all, the yield of rice, by the proposed method is no less than that obtained in customary methods. In certain areas where there is water scarcity sufficient water to soak the paddy and change the soak water every day is not available. The proposed method would be suitable for adoption in such places. Considering all these advantages the suggested method merits consideration by the rice miller.

Practicability of the method.

That the proposed method can actually be applied for commercial parboiling in large rice mills has been shown by fitting a steam distributor of the type described to a cement tank in a large rice mill in Mysore and demonstrating the process several times and on several varieties of paddy in the rice mill. Other rice mills in Mysore will also be trying out this method very soon and it is hoped that rice millers all over the country will realize the advantages of the modified process and adopt it as a method for routine parboiling. The method is ideal for being adopted by Co-operative Agencies and Village Organizations under the Community Development Programme as a Cottage Industry. The method is simple and economical and can be adopted by all existing parboiling mills without heavy additional equipment.

1. *The lay-out of a Steam Distributor fitted into a Paddy Soaking Tank.*
2. *Attachment of a side distributor tube to the central shaft assembled from G.I. T-tubes and collars.*



Curing of Fresh Paddy to Obtain a Product Resembling Old Raw Rice

While rice from stored paddy possesses desirable cooking properties, rice from freshly harvested paddy cooks to a pasty mass, and yields a thick viscous gruel during cooking. It does not also swell to the maximum extent like old rice. Researches have been undertaken at this Institute to study the possibility of giving some type of simple treatment to the freshly harvested paddy in the rice mill so that it yields after milling a rice that possesses the desired cooking qualities of old stored rice. The following method of treatment of freshly harvested paddy gives a rice which looks and cooks like old raw rice and possesses, besides, the nutritional properties of parboiled or homepounded rice. The cured rice also possesses the higher swelling property characteristic of old rice.

Treatment of paddy.

The treatment, which is a very simple one and therefore can be adopted by all rice parboiling mills, consists in steaming the fresh paddy in the steaming kettle until steam emerges from the bottom and the top of the kettle and then keeping it in the hot condition for about one hour. The paddy is then dried by aeration either in the shade or in mild evening or morning sun with occasional turning over of the paddy. Drying in the hot sun is to be avoided as cracking will occur and broken rice will result. As the paddy is not soaked in water prior to the steaming, the drying of the paddy is quick (about one hour) and the milled rice appears like raw rice itself.

The cost of steaming and drying involved in the treatment is a nominal one (less than a Rupee per 100 seers of rice) and the consumers would gladly bear this small extra cost in consideration of the improved cooking qualities conferred by the treatment. The cost of treatment should be considered to be very small indeed as the difference in cost between old and new rice in commerce varies between 10-15 Rupees per palla depending on the availability of old rice.

Varieties suitable for treatment.

The steaming treatment described above is essentially one of very gentle parboiling. For this reason, the grain treated by this method is not as hard as fully parboiled rice and there is, therefore, greater breakage during milling than is normal for fully parboiled rice. The hard varieties of rice which are conventionally used for obtaining raw rice can however be subjected to this steaming treatment to obtain a product resembling sold raw rice. If the steaming treatment is more prolonged, then an opaque rice that cooks hard like parboiled rice can also be obtained. The coarse varieties of rice that are comparatively soft undergo high breakage when subjected to the steaming treatment in its present form. Some other modified form of treatment seems to be necessary to impart sufficient hardness to these varieties.

Nutritive value of the treated fresh rice.

Besides possessing the appearance and cooking characteristics of old raw rice, the treated fresh rice also has the nutritional value of home-pounded or parboiled rice. It has more thiamine, for instance, than the untreated raw rice. The steaming treatment is therefore an ideal method of supplying a nutritious form of raw rice. Even old paddy can be subjected to the steaming treatment to improve the nutritive value of the rice. As the paddy is not soaked in water, the treated rice retains its opaqueness unlike fully parboiled rice which is translucent and has an yellow tinge.

Consumer trials in Mysore have shown that the treated rice is accepted readily by the habitual consumers of both raw and parboiled rice. The availability, on the market, of the cured fresh rice will be a great benefit, especially for the poor and middle class people, who cannot afford to pay the very high price for old rice and it is hoped that rice millers and merchants will put on the market such treated rice.

The Institute will be glad to demonstrate the process to such of those who wish to adopt this treatment for curing fresh rice on a commercial scale.

—By courtesy, The Director, Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore.

The Chief Minister Sri K. Kamaraj met the officers of the Government to devise ways to expedite Community Development Programme work at the end of last month. Sri M. Bhakthavatsalam, Minister for Home, was also present.

Handloom Development Schemes: Emphasis on Increased Production

By Sri G. RAMACHANDRAN, Director of Handlooms.

It is only three years since we started observing the All-India Handloom Week. From quite modest beginnings the celebrations during the week assumed the character of a national festival of weavers. The growing enthusiasm which the observance of this Week evoked, is evidence of the increasing interest taken by the Government and the public in the development of the industry. Three years are no doubt just a pin point in the long and chequered history of the handloom industry. But in a sense, the last three years will come to be remembered as the most fruitful period in the annals of the handloom industry, for into this period has been packed a programme of development which for its range and pace has had few parallels. These three years have marked the consumation of our efforts to place the industry on a stable footing. In the last few decades the industry had been leading a rather precarious existence living from one crisis to another. It was very often a crisis in consumption when the demand for handloom cloth fell off significantly and stocks began to accumulate. It was at other times a crisis in production when supplies of yarn, the raw material of the industry became exiguous. But whatever be the nature of the crisis, be it one of consumption or production, the result was much the same looms stopped humming and weavers were thrown out of employment. In the light of the success of our programmes during the last three years and the experience which the administrative machinery has gained in tackling the problems of the industry it may not be unduly optimistic to hope that these crisis now definitely belong to the past and that the industry has now been placed on a reasonably stable footing.

Institutionalised Market.

The celebration of the Fourth All-India Handloom Week gave us all an opportunity to take stock of the progress already made in stabilising this industry. It gave us too an opportunity of surveying the tasks ahead and of concerting ways and means of performing those tasks well. When the Cess Fund was constituted nearly four years ago the problem before the planners was largely one of stimulating the consumption of handloom cloth. Emphasis came to be placed naturally on schemes for the promotion of sales of handloom cloth and of increasing the 'Staying power' of the handloom producers so that they might hold on to the stocks and not unload them at 'distress' prices. An improvement in the marketing of handloom cloth could naturally be effected only by introducing some order in the chaotic conditions inherent in any scheme of marketing by thousands of producers. It will naturally not be possible for the individual handloom weaver to market his own production on profitable terms. Government therefore felt the need to institutionalise the arrangements for marketing and the institution had necessarily to take the form of a co-operative, as that would alone assure the weavers the full fruits of their labour.

State gets Rs. 517 lakhs from Cess Fund.

Great stress was therefore laid on forming weavers' primary co-operative Societies and of federating these latter into apex societies at State level. Financial assistance was rendered to the primaries and the apex society for opening depots and emporia in new places where handloom cloth could be marketed. The reluctance of consumers to buy handloom cloth had to be overcome by offering a rebate on the sale price of cloth. Financial assistance was rendered for running mobile sales vans so that handloom cloth could be taken to the door-steps of the consumers and rendered popular among them. The emphasis in short, as I said earlier, was entirely on stepping up the sales of handloom cloth. Since the inception of Cess Fund Schemes a total sum of Rs. 517 lakhs has been allotted by the All India Handloom Board to this State for the development of the handloom industry and of this a sum of Rs. 485·7 lakhs has been spent. Of this the outlay on schemes designed specifically to promote the consumption of cloth is as follows:—

	RS. IN LAKHS.
MARKETING FINANCE FOR THE APEX SOCIETY.	82·65
SUBSIDY TO RECOUP REBATE ON SALES OF HANDLOOM CLOTH.	172·10
SALES DEPOTS	10·54
MOBILE VANS	2·06
PUBLICITY	1·28
TOTAL ..	268·63

The success of these measures hss exceeded our best expectations. During the last three years, sales of handloom cloth in the co-operative sector alone have increased from about Rs. 20 lakhs a month to over Rs. 60 lakhs a month—a threefold increase, while the number of looms in the co-operative fold has increased only by about two-thirds. Handloom cloth which had

1,000 Looms to be Fitted with 'Take up Motion Attachements' in Erode.

hitherto been popular among only lower income groups has now found its way into the wardrobe of the urban classes and the higher income groups. There are over 300 co-operative emporia for the display and sale of handloom fabrics. A new taste has now been cultivated among the general public for handloom fabrics and in this lies the assurance of the future of the industry.

Emphasis on production.

The time has come when there has to be a re-orientation of the schemes for the development of the handloom industry so as to encourage the production of handloom cloth to meet the increasing requirements of the country. The emphasis has to be laid on schemes designed to step up production and not as hitherto on purely schemes for stimulating consumption. I am aware that at present there is some stagnation of stocks of certain varieties and counts. But there is no reason to fear that this is anything more than a purely short term phenomenon. The fact that there is simultaneously stagnation in the mill sector also indicates that there has at least been no adverse change in the pattern of consumer preferences as between mill and handloom fabrics. The Planning Commission has set a target of increased production of 700 million yards of handloom cloth and this increase is to be achieved by 1958–59. The entire quantity of 700 million yards is to be produced from mill-made yarn. So far as the Madras State is concerned the total production of handloom cloth at the end of 1955 is roughly estimated at 300 million yards of which about 83 million yards were produced in the co-operative sector. The All-India Handloom Board has recently approved a programme for increasing the present production to the levels indicated below:—

Year.	Production in the co-operative sector.	Production outside the co-operative sector.	Total target of production for Madras State.
		(In million yards.)	
1956–57	121	233	354
1957–58	162	268	430
1958–59	211	251	462

On the basis of the past performance we need not despair of realising these targets of additional production laid down by the All-India Handloom Board. As indicated earlier we have been able to treble the production of handloom cloth in the co-operative fold. Provided the same tempo of development is kept up, it should be possible for us to realise the admittedly modest targets of production laid down by the All-India Handloom Board for the handloom industry. But there are however certain essential conditions that should be fulfilled if the handloom industry is to fulfil the role allotted to it in meeting the cloth requirements of the country. The main handicap of the weavers' co-operative societies in stepping up production has been lack of finance. Though, since the inception of Cess Fund Schemes a sum of Rs. 163 lakhs has been placed at the disposal of the Co-operative Central Banks for being loaned to the weavers' societies, in practice only two-thirds of the amount is generally found to be outstanding at any time with the co-operative societies. Even if we assume that the entire amount of Rs. 163 lakhs had been lent by the Co-operative Central Banks to the weavers' societies it would only amount to Rs. 90 per loom as there are 1·8 lakhs of looms now in the co-operative fold. Even these loans are not advanced by banks for a long enough period to enable the primaries to plan their production programmes with any degree of certainty. Though the Government of India have announced their decision to make available working capital loans of Rs. 300 for all looms, the decision is yet to be implemented. As from 1st April 1957 the working capital requirements of the handloom industry are to be drawn from the Reserve Bank of India. The quantum of production finance made available to the weavers' co-operative societies will come to depend largely on the willingness of the Central Banks to borrow from the Reserve Bank within the credit limits fixed for them and pass on that money to weavers' co-operative societies. The fulfilment of the production programme for the handloom industry will therefore largely depend upon the spirit of co-operation displayed by the co-operative financing agencies. Working capital loans have hitherto been provided to the weavers' co-operative societies largely to enable them to hold their stocks in anticipation of a possible improvement in prices. As the market for the handloom industry is now by and large stabilised the Co-operative Central Banks will have to play a more positive role by providing working capital loans primarily as an instrument for harnessing the idle productive capacity of the looms in the co-operative fold. It is a matter of common knowledge that roughly about one-third of the looms in weavers' co-operative societies are inactive. If these looms are made active it will become possible for us to realise the additional targets laid down for the handloom industry. The question of extending guarantee to the Central Banks against losses incurred by them in lending the weavers' societies is currently under the consideration of the Government and once a satisfactory solution to this vexing problem of guarantee is found it may be reasonably hoped that the Central Banks will liberalize their lending policies and procedures so as to enable the weavers' societies to play their legitimate part in producing more cloth for the country.

Yarn requirements.

Besides increased working capital, weavers' co-operative seocieties will also require increased and steady supplies of yarn if they are to fulfil the role assigned to them. The yarn requirements of weavers' societies are estimated about 6,000 bales per month. For producing an additional quantity of 39 million yards during 1957–58 alone, they would require 2,000 more bales of yarn per month. The Madras State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society is now meeting only one-fifth

... of the ...uring it direct from ... at ex-mill rates. Primary ...es themselves have not been ...nsistently loyal to the apex society in the matter of purchase of yarn. They very often prefer to purchase yarn from private dealers whose terms are most elastic than those of the apex society. In the long run it will be in the interests of primaries to get all the requirements of yarn from the apex society and for the later to procure the required quantity of yarn at ex-mill rates from the mills. Necessary official support may have to be extended to such an arrangement and a degree of compulsion on the primaries to purchase their yarn only from the apex society will appear to be indicated. If the primary societies make it a point to purchase their yarn requirements from the apex society the bargaining position of the latter *vis-a-vis* the mills will be strengthened and it will then be feasible to arrange for steady supplies of yarn in the counts required at fair prices. Certain estimates made recently show that the apex society may have to be provided with additional finance of about Rs. 50 lakhs if it is to shoulder the responsibility of meeting all the requirements of yarn of the primaries. This sum will have to be provided by Government or the Reserve Bank of India if the production programmes of the primaries are to be implemented without interruptions. It will also be desirable to encourage the setting up of co-operative spinning mills controlled predominently by weavers' societies so that the latter might be in a position to influence the yarn prices favourably to themselves. Licence for the setting up of a co-operative spinning mill with 16,000 spindles at Tirunelveli has already been issued and the mill is now under erection. A sum of Rs. 10·51 lakhs has also been collected for the setting up of another co-operative spinning mill at Srivilliputhur with assistance from the cess fund but the licence is yet to be secured. When these two co-operative spinning mills go into production it will be possible for the apex society to have a buffer stock of yarn with which it could iron out fluctuations in prices of yarn.

Quality and production control needed.

While production is being increased; care will have to be taken to ensure to regulate production in accordance with consumer demand. A tendency has been noticed in weavers' co-operatives to produce varieties which secure for the weavers immediately higher wages without regard to the fact whether the market will absorb such varieties. Thus as a saree with elaborate designs in the border will fetch higher wages for the weavers there has been a tendency to switch over to the production of such varieties even looms which were producing dhoties and other easily saleable varieties. To regulate production with reference to the earnings of the weavers alone will be suicidal. Such a policy will not be in the interests of the weavers themselves. Wages are now determined in bi-monthly conferences of weavers' co-operative societies. A rational and flexible wage policy will have to be evolved in these conferences so that production of popular varieties might be encouraged and that of slow-moving varieties discouraged. The weavers may not in the initial stages relish such readjustment of wages but if the reasons are explained to them properly and they are given continuous employment they will accept such a policy. The total earnings will not also be affected.

Improved appliances.

Greater emphasis will also hereafter have to be laid on improvements in the technique of the handloom industry. Our experience in this regard during the last four years has not been quite, encouraging. Only a sum of Rs 4·1 lakhs has been spent on the supply of improved appliances to the weavers' societies. It has not been possible to achieve any considerable measure of success in persuading the weavers to take to improved appliances, steel reeds, varnished healds, take-up motion attachments, etc. Rigid specifications regarding picks, ends, fastness of colours, etc., will have to be laid down and enforced if the handloom industry is to retain the loyalty of the clientale which it has secured during the last three of four years. A sub-committee which was appointed some time ago by the Madras State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society has laid down standards for certain popular varieties and these are available for immediate adoption. But the scheme of standardization now covers only a small percentage of the looms in the co-operative fold and we may have to extend this scheme of standardization in the initial stages largely by persuasion to cover a larger percentage of the looms. During the last four years handloom cloth has become popular in urban areas and among higher income groups. These classes are generally 'quality consicious' and will insist upon handloom cloth conforming to the highest standards generally associated with mill cloth. To ensure production of handloom cloth of uniform weave the Government are arranging for the free supply of take-up motion attachments costing about Rs. 70 each. But these take-up motion attachments are yet to become popular in our State, though in Bombay and Hyderabad they are reported to have been well received by the weavers. In Erode circle we are now trying to get about 1,000 looms fitted with these takeup motion attachments and the results of this experiment are awaited with interest.

The handloom industry will also have to adopt progressively improved methods of dyeing though weavers' co-operative societies already conform to fairly high standards in this respect. The Madras State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society is being provided with financial assistance to set up two improved dye factories on modern lines with boiler kier, hydro extractor and other improved machinery. There has also been increasing demand particularly from overseas for handloom cloth woven with mercerized yarn. Only twofold yarn is now being generally mercerized. The technical feasibility of mercerizing single-yarn on large scale may have to be examined so that such yarn might be made popular among handloom weavers. The team of experts which came recently from America to study the possibilities of export of Indian fabrics to U.S. is reported to have laid stress on a wider use of 'mercerized' and 'combed' yarn by handloom weavers. If the industry is to maintain the progress it has recorded during the last three or four years there will have to be continuous and relentless search for such possibilities of improvements in the technique and materials employed by the Industry. In the wider adoption of such improved technique and materials lies the salvation of the industry.

60-Bed Hospital to Treat Insured Workers

Madras City has gained the lead over other centres in the matter of providing medical facilities to workers insured under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme. Though the scheme is in force in 51 centres including major cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Kanpur. Madras City Centre is the only place which has so far set up a separate self-contained hospital for in-patient treatment of the insured persons. The hospital situated at Poonamallee High Road, Kilpauk, has a bed strength of sixty with modern equipment.

The Employees' State Insurance Scheme has so far been introduced in the Madras State in the five places of Coimbatore, Madras City, Madurai, Ambasamudram and Tuticorin and suburbs. In all about 1¼ lakh of insured persons are in receipt of the benefit provisions of the Act in all these places. The scheme has been in force in the Madras State since 1955 and the benefit provisions of the scheme were introduced in the Madras City and suburbs in November 1955.

In all about 50,000 insured persons including about 1,500 women workers working in 325 factories are covered under the scheme in the Madras City and suburbs.

For providing medical treatment to the insured persons in Madras City and suburbs, the State Government have set up 14 State Insurance full-time dispensaries manned by the necessary medical and ancilliary staff, whereat only insured persons are being treated. In addition, under an agreement between the State Government and the B. & C. Mills, Ltd., Madras, their dispensary at Perambur has also been integrated under the scheme for attending to the medical needs of the insured persons. Besides these, a mobile dispensary has been functioning with effect from 26th September 1956 for serving the insured persons living in outlying areas like Ayanavaram, Villivakkam, etc. Further, in order to serve the insured persons living in other sparse areas, two panel doctors have also been appointed under the scheme, one in Tambaram and the other at Red Hills.

To provide in-patient treatment to the insured workers, a separate hospital providing about 60 beds exclusively for them only has been established in the City at Poonamallee High Road, Kilpauk. An Ambulance van has also been attached to the hospital. This hospital is kept open all the 24 hours in a day, so that any accident or emergency case can be examined and admitted at any time. One Specialist in Medicine and another in Surgery have been appointed in the State Insurance Hospital at Madras for attending exclusively on the insured persons only for two hours a day. Even though the Scheme is in force in 51 centres throughout the country including the cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Kanpur, etc., the Madras City is the only place in the country which has, so far, set up a separate self-contained hospital for in-patient treatment of the insured persons exclusively.

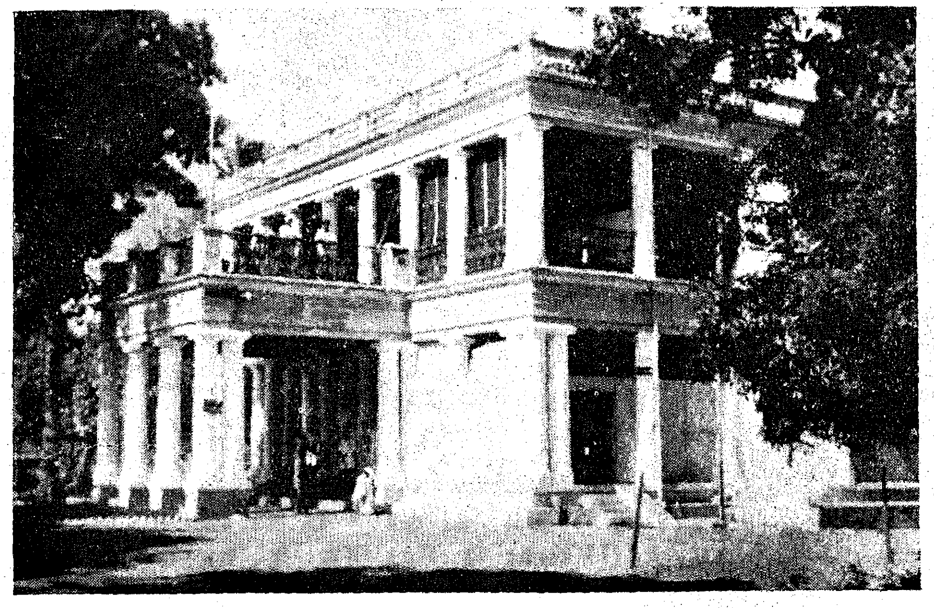
For those suffering from T.B., 16 beds have been reserved in the T.B. Sanatorium, Tambaram. Six beds for maternity cases have been reserved in the Government Rajah Sir Ramaswamy Mudaliar Lying-in Hospital, Madras, for the sake of insured women.

Since the present hospital is functioning only in a rented building, the Corporation and the State Government are planning to construct exclusively for the use of the insured persons under the scheme, a self-contained hospital with all modern equipments and with a bed strength for about 100 patients.

For effecting the cash, sickness, disablement, dependants' and maternity benefits under the scheme, the Corporation has set up three local offices and two sub-offices in the areas which are central having regard to the various localities of the Madras City.

The Government have under active consideration the extension of the medical benefit to the families of the insured persons as well and it is hoped that the extension of the medical benefit would be implemented in a few months for which, it is understood, preparations are being taken on hand.

When the scheme is ultimately implemented about 225,000 workers will get the benefit.



The sixty-bed hospital at Poonamallee High Road, Kilpauk, established under Employees' State Insurance Scheme.

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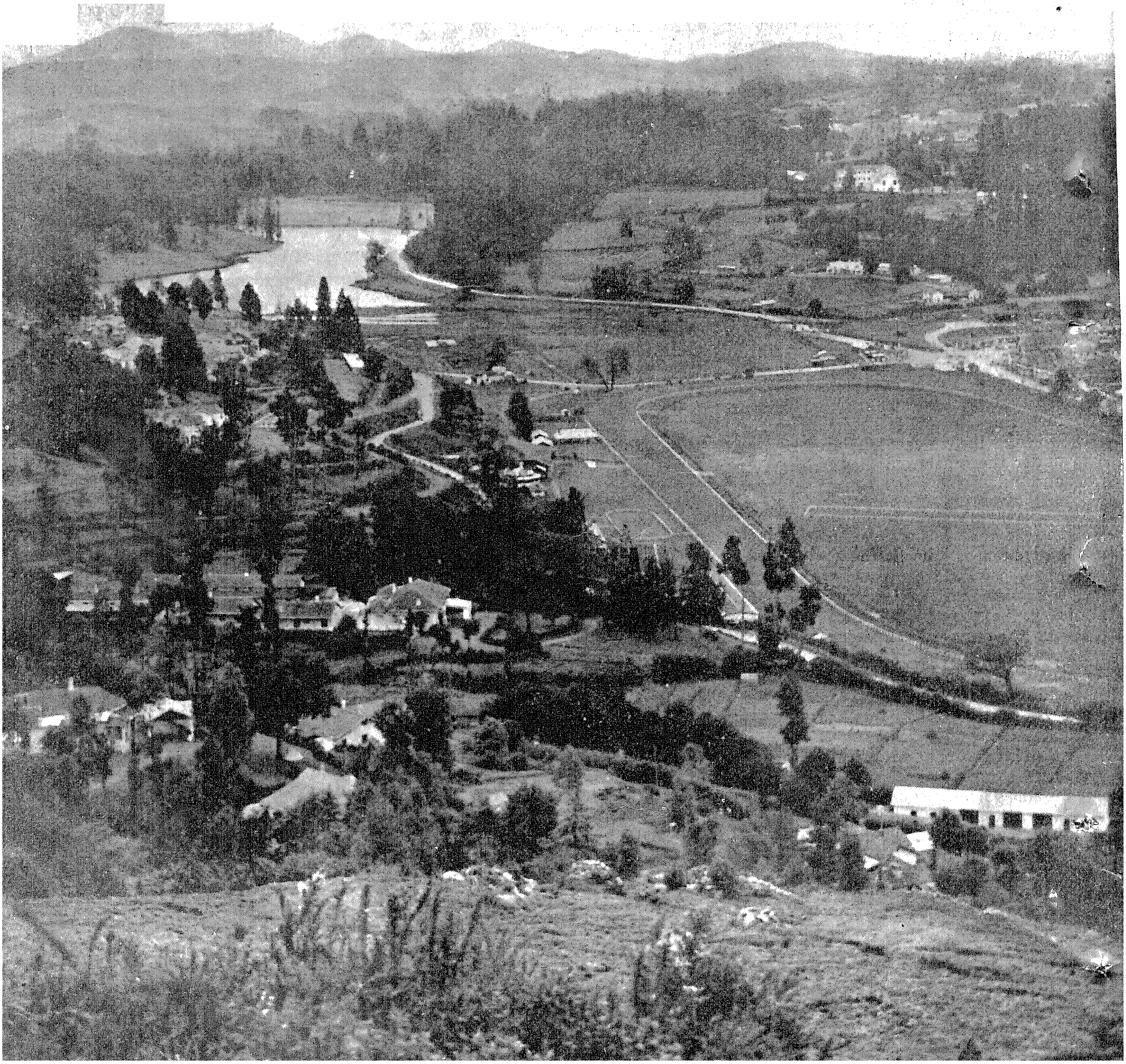


Ooty—the Paradise of the South

Ootacamund, lovingly called Ooty, ranks among the gayest and certainly most exquisite spots in India. It is not just a hill station ; until recently Ooty was the summer capital of the Madras State.

To describe Ooty as the Queen of Hill Stations cannot be a fitting tribute at a time when half a dozen hill stations claim the same title. If there are queens and queens, Ooty can be rightly called the unchallenged Queen of Hill Stations.

Nature, to begin with, and man during the last hundred and fifty years, have made Ooty the paradise of the South. The availability of plenty of level ground at a high altitude in a measure and manner unknown to other hill stations perhaps is chiefly responsible for Ooty to attain this unique position. Good motorable roads, pathways for hikers and horse bring every beauty spot, hunting ground and waterfall within the easy reach of the holiday maker.

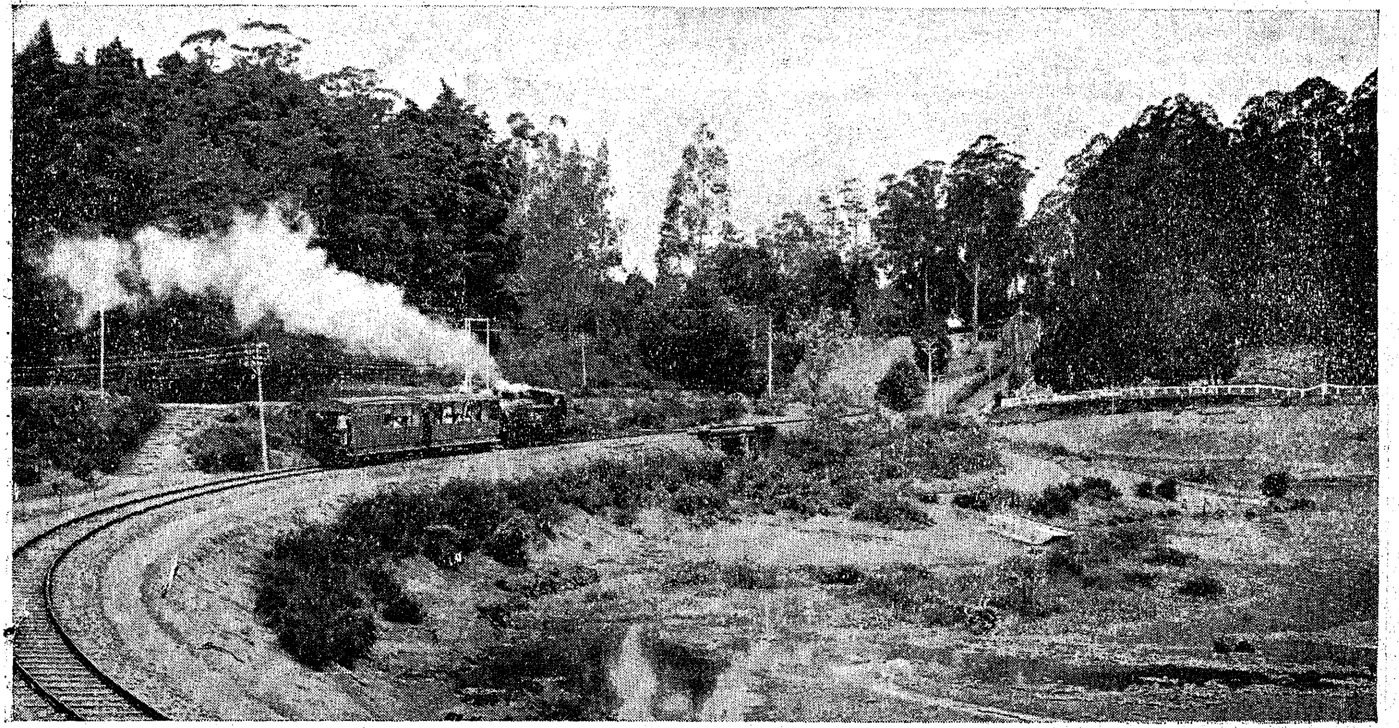
It is temperate all the year round with rainfall that is never more than 30 to 40 inches distributed throughout the year, falling as uncertain showers and drizzles, but never in avalanches. The temperature on the whole seldom rises above 60°F and rarely falls below 50°F. Therefore its cold is bracing and its sun is never scorching.

The earliest expedition into these hills is recorded by a Portuguese priest by the name of Ferreiri as far back as 1602. He records conversations with Toda priests and the gifts he gave to their families. It appears that the existence of Todas, the earliest inhabitants of the Nilgiris, was discovered during this trip.

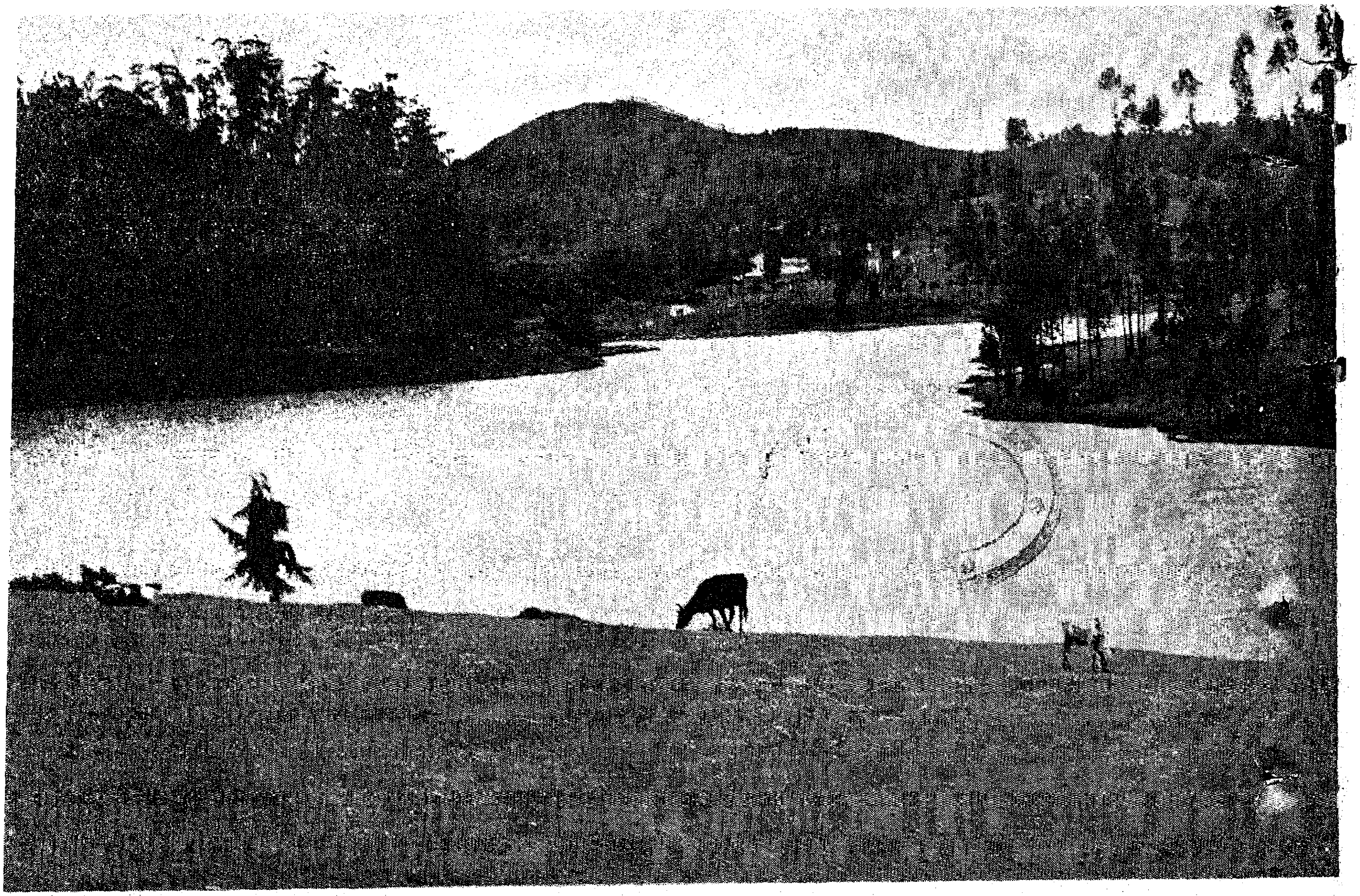
After this clerical excursion, the next enterprise was not undertaken till 200 years later when a Dr. Buchanan, acting under orders from the Government of India to explore commercial and agricultural conditions in and about Mysore, ran into these hills. But his expedition was abortive and his impressions the result of a single day's trip.

Twelve years later in 1812, a surveyor named Keys, accompanied by an apprentice, Macmahon, was sent up by the Collector of Coimbatore to make a detailed study of the plan of the hills.

Six years later, two more enterprising assistants, sent by another Collector, Mr. John Sullivan, later to become famous through his association with the history of the place, hiked into the hills. Their favourable reactions encouraged the Collector to make the trip himself and later to establish his residence there, becoming thereby the first European resident who built the first house in Ootacamund.



Mettupalayam-Ooty train journey has its undeniable charm. The panoramic views the traveller commands make him forget the slow moving and frequent halts of the train.



The Ooty Lake. Though it does not look very large at first sight, it covers a wide area.

Ooty has some five thousand well designed houses of varying sizes dotted over the hills.

It was in May 1819 that he undertook the expedition and is believed by many to be the real discoverer, if not of the Nilgiris, certainly of Ootacamund. Its climate and scenery impressed him so much that he recommended to the Government that the NEILGERRY, as the word was then spelt, be adopted as a hill resort. "Stonehouse", the first house, was completed in 1823. It still stands on a lofty elevation just above the market place, though the original has been changed considerably.

Europeans started settling on the hill as early as 1824 and soon afterwards the Governors of Madras made it their regular resort during the summer months. There are many graphic accounts of their visit and the interest they took generally in the improvement of Government House, which was originally known as "Norwood House".

Wooded ways too are abundant with scenic beauty.

In the wake of Government House, various Maharajas of the Indian States and other wealthy folk built manorial houses in the midst of tall silver oaks, blue gum trees, wartals and a wealth of other flora and foliage. Today Ooty has some five thousand well designed houses of varying sizes dotted over the hills. They are very pretty in themselves and enhance the beauty of the place.

As the residents grew in number and the popularity of the hill station among visitors spread, amenities began to be provided. The first Post Office was opened in 1826; the first hospital in 1829; the mun'cipality was established in 1863; the Collector's office in 1866, the library, today considered to be among the finest in South India, with a collection of 40,000 books, followed in 1878; a market was established and every Tuesday, known to this day as "Shandy", "lords and ladies gay" used to go and do their weekly shopping.

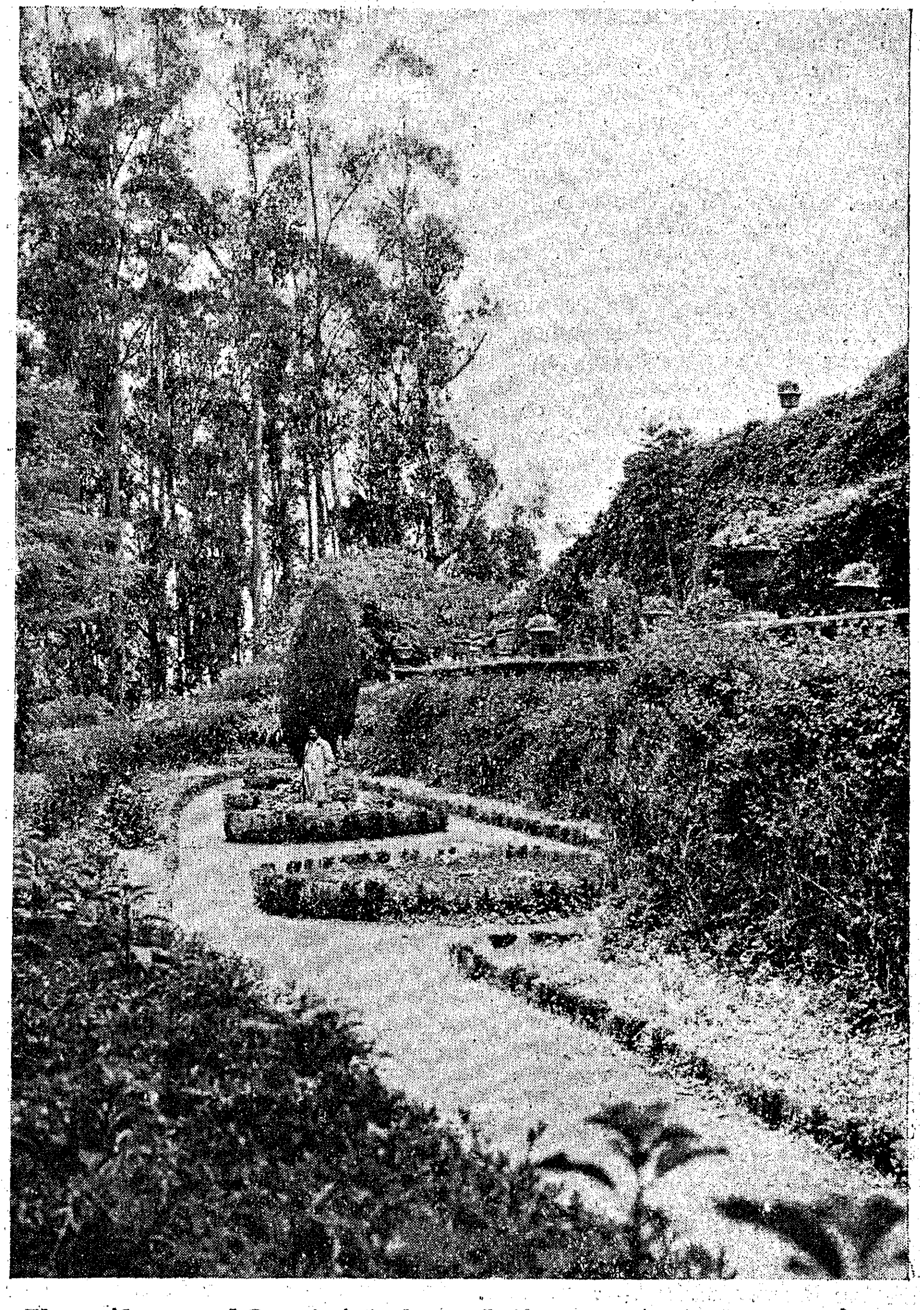
Today there are fashionable shops all along Charing Cross, which is the central place in Ooty identified by a Flora Fountain, which used to play when the rain gods, were in good humour. Several clubs were started in 1841, the Ooty Club, still reserved for the exclusive use of Europeans and mainly used by planters today in 1869, the Gymkhana Club, now known as the Ooty Golf Club, in 1845, the Hunt Club, still going strong, and several others of more recent origin like the Lawley Institute where Open Tennis Championships are held in the season.

Unlike roads generally in the hills, Ooty's roads are not only beautiful but excellent in their construction. In fact, motoring is a necessity. Points of vantage are far removed from each other and it is distinct advantage to own or hire a car.

It was Lord Wenlock, then Governor of Madras, who was largely responsible for popularising the famous Downs and hence they have come to be known by his name.

Here you can play golf on one of the finest golf courses in the country; you can hunt panthers, leopards and ibex in its "sholas" (clumps of trees or woods having the same effect on the downs as an oasis in a desert); here point-to-point races are held in September; and here you can walk to your heart's content over hills that simply tumble over one another; here riding too is at its best.

(Continued on page 31)



The world renowned Botanical Gardens. Laid out over a century ago no fewer than 650 varieties of important plants are grown there.

*Social Work in India

Social work is a comparatively new phenomenon in India. There was hardly any scope for social work in ancient or mediveal India. In ancient India, Hinduism, with its twin pillars, namely, the joint family system and the caste system, precluded the need for social work. Under the joint family system the members of a joint family were supported by the head of the family. Each received according to his need and all members, whether weak or strong, sick or healthy, employed or unemployed, had their needs attended to by the family chief. Thus, there was no necessity for any member to depend upon any external assistance. The caste system also helped to perpetuate this state of affairs. The caste was the larger unit next to the family and members of the caste were like members of a corporate body, each receiving help whenever he wanted from other members of the caste. In such a context there was no need for social workers or for humanitarian organisations to undertake social work on an organised scale. Moreover, life was simple; the society was far from complex and human wants were limited.

This state of affairs continued right through the Muslim period in Indian history and only with the advent of the British, do we find social work and social workers emerging into the open. India had considerably advanced by this time and the impact of Western civilization on an Eastern people produced its own complexities. The British flag was followed by British missionaries, who started coming to India regularly from 1793. It began as a trickle but after 1833, it swelled into a stream. These missionaries with their evangelical fervour settled down in remote villages and towns, and put their shoulder to the wheel of ameliorative work through the opening of schools, hospitals, orphanages and similar other institutions. They blazed the trial for active social work in India and their self-denying and self-effacing work took little time to catch the imagination of the people. This is the beginning of social work in India. However, throughout the British period, the Government did not directly sponsor social welfare activities; for the British conception of the governance of India was mainly one of maintaining law and order. Consequently, what little social welfare activities had been done were left to themselves without the unified or co-ordinating direction from a single authority. Hence, very little headway was made in the field of social welfare during the British period. India had to wait for the achievement of her independence to open a new chapter in the matter of promoting social welfare activities under the aegis of the Government.

The goal of new India is a welfare State and in the context of this goal social welfare activities should form an important part of governmental programmes. It is also incumbent on the State to mobilise private enthusiasm in this regard. That the Government of India and the State Governments have risen equal to this responsibility is evident from a casual glance at the progress made by social welfare activities since this country attained independence. Everywhere from Cape Comorin to Kashmir we find social work and social workers much in evidence. Even the youths of the country have not failed to demonstrate their enthusiasm in this regard by forming guilds or associations both inside and outside educational institutions. The Government have also sponsored the Bharat Sevak Samaj which is actively interesting itself in the promotion of social welfare work in the country. Above all, there is a Central Social Welfare Board which spearheads the social welfare activities, especially in respect of work among women and children and socially handicapped. One important thing to remember in this connection is that much of the success in social work depends on the mental and intellectual equipment of the persons employed for the purpose. Time had long gone by when social work was the hobby of the leisured few and a few stray visits to ugly spots either in a village or town passed muster as social service. Social service at the present day is an art which needs study, training apart from a measure of sympathy, imagination and enthusiasm. It is, as the Vice-President of India observes in the course of his special measage to the Annual Number, not merely the improvement of material conditions but also includes the moral health and well-being of a society. "In our country to-day", he says, "we have natural resources in abundance and adequate man-power, but the will, the character and the capacity to co-operate with one another are lacking". That is why we are in this condition. "Personal ambition is dominating all from top to bottom", says the Vice-President. This outlook has to be changed. This is no easy job and can be done only by social workers properly equipped for the purpose. And in equipping them, journals like the one under review have got an important role to play.

The Annual Number is a class 1 production in every respect. It gives the reader a clear prespective of the social welfare activities now being under taken in different parts of the country. The illuminating article by the Chairman, Social Welfare Board, on pages 10 and 11 gives, among other things, interesting glimpses into the present activities and future programme of the Board. On pages 32 and 33 are given striking facts and figures regarding the impact, development and scope of social welfare activities and particulars of the different schemes that are being undertaken under the direction of the Board. Again a chart is given which sets forth the administrative machinery guiding social welfare activities in this country. This chart gives an idea of the immensity of the work that is being undertaken by the Central Welfare Board and the comprehensive way in which every aspect of social welfare is being tackled. The journal also contains a bird's eye view of the social welfare work that is being done in different States in India to-day. There were also a number of other interesting articles which will amply repay persual.

The journal is richly illustrated; the photographs are elegantly displayed and the get-up is exceedingly attractive. The journal contains a rich collection of vital information on matters relating to social welfare.

—THOMAS K. GEORGE.

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* *Social Welfare Annual Number, April 1957, published by the Publication Division on behalf of the Central Social Welfare Board. Price 75 naye paise. Available with the Business Manager, Publications Division, Old Secretariat, Delhi-8.*

(*Continued from page 29*)

The Downs are easily reached from any of the three principal hotels of Ooty, being only a mile and a half further up along the Westbury Road. Starting from the Station, it is better to come up to the road and then go straight ahead to Fingerpost, which is so called because five roads start from this point.

Botanical Gardens.

The Government Botanical Gardens are another landmark in the history of Ootacamund. Mr. McIvor, formerly of Key Gardens, was responsible for the original laying-out of the garden over a century ago.

Originally planned as a vegetable garden, it failed but flowered into one of the finest horticultural enterprises in the country. A Horticultural Society was started in 1847 with the aid of public donations.

In 1855, the garden passed into Government hands and since then it has undergone various stages in improvement in design; it has been laid out in terraces; new flowers and plants have been introduced and experiments are being carried out with various seeds and plants.

Today, no fewer than 650 varieties of important plants are grown in the gardens, ranging from ornamental trees and shrubs, herbaceous perennials, bulbous plants, rock and medicinal plants to ferns, orchids and roses.

Ooty's Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Shows, started in 1895, have become famous. At these shows which are attended by people from all over the Nilgiris, and the fashionable mingle with the tribal folk, there are also at the same time cattle and poultry shows. A separate day is set aside for the dog show. There are several dog kennely in Ooty and some of the finest specimens in the various breeds are reared.

The Lake.

Ooty has a tiny Lake, which, were it not known to be artificial, would certainly pass for natural. Covering an area of only 2 miles, it was first conceived by John Sullivan in 1823, and the original intention was to use it for irrigation; but it turned out to be so lovely that it was preserved for its sheer beauty. Since its inception in 1823, it has undergone several changes and Rs. 2 lakhs were spent on it between 1896 and 1899. Today it is lovely in its serenity, surrounded by trees, which used to grow much more thickly until the axe was ruthlessly applied to them. It affords in ample measure the amenities of solitude, boating and fishing. On the opposite bank is the beginning of Fern Hill. It provides refreshing rambles.

Government of India Merit Scholarships

Applications from children (boys and girls) who will have completed the age of 5 years but who will not have completed the age of 12 years on 15th July 1957, are invited for the awards under the scheme "Government of India Merit Scholarships in Public Schools" for the academic year 1958.

The scheme, instituted in 1953, has been evolved by the Government in order to extend the benefits of education in Public Schools to deserving children of the lower income groups. Among the students who have benefited from the last three years' awards are many who come from families of the lower income professions, like clerks, mechanics, *baids*, hotel servants, parcel clerks in Railway service, teachers, workers in the press and peons.

Scholarships amounting up to a lakh of rupees will be awarded and the value of each scholarship will depend on the income of both the parents/guardian of the candidate. If the total income of both the parents/guardians is less than Rs. 75 per month, the Government will meet the entire cost of education, including full fees, clothing (including the school uniform) and pocket money (including expenditure on essential toilet articles at school rates), the journey expenses of the scholar and, if the scholar is of tender age, of the escort also.

All these concessions, with the exception of the school uniform and pocket money, will be met by the Government when the total income is between Rs. 75 and Rs. 100 per month. Full exemption from fees and clothing allowance will be granted when the total income is between Rs.101 and Rs. 250 per month. Full exemption from fees alone will be granted when the income ranges between Rs. 251 and Rs. 599 per month and exemption from half the amount of the fees when it ranges between Rs. 600 and Rs. 1,199 per month. Where the total income exceeds Rs. 1,200 per month, no exemption from fees will be given, though the children will enjoy the privilege of being considered "Merit Scholars."

Out of the total number of scholarship, 17½ per cent are reserved for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in the ratio of 7½ per cent: 2½ per cent: 7½ per cent. If, however, no suitable canditates from these categories are available, the reserved scholarships will be thrown open to others.

All the State Governments and Public Schools in India were requested to institute scholarships, more or less of the same value and on the same terms and conditions as under the Government of India Scheme.

Application forms can be obtained either direct from the Director of Education, Director of Public Instruction of the State in which the candidate is residing or from the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Scholarship Division, S-16 Section), Government of India, New Delhi. The last date for receipt of applications by the above authorities is July 1, 1957.

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A practical difficulty arising out of lack of knowledge of the various departments and their functions was put forth by one representative. The villagers whom he represented understood the full import of Community Development schemes and the contribution by the people. So they had collected about a thousand rupees and without intimating the block authorities started laying the road. The thousand rupees were spent and the road was left incomplete. They could not raise any more money and did not know whom they should approach. They wanted the officer who could help them to visit their village and complete the road.

Hospitals, maternity centres and bridges were demanded too. One villager infused pathos to his narration by stating that a village mother gave birth to a child in the fields, and that a boy lost his life on his way to the school when he attempted to cross a stream.

The agriculturists had their own problem. Their difficulties were in obtaining loans for agricultural operations easily and promptly. Those who lived in the old zamindari areas experienced additional difficulties. They could not command credit facilities as their lands were not surveyed and separate pattas assigned.

Women representatives spoke of the need for providing training to women in village arts and crafts. Cottage industries like spinning, pottery, basket and rope-making could be popularised by posting more women orginisers in the Community Blocks.

The Harijan representatives wanted drinking-water wells, schools in Harijan colonies and the assignment of house-sites. They also complained of lack of employment in the countryside and an assured minimum wage.

At the conclusion of the conference, the Chief Minister consulted with the Chief Secretary, Sri W.R.S. Satthianathan, Sri M.G. Rajaram, Additional Development Commissioner and Sri A.Venkatesan, Collector of Chingleput, and took decision on a number of pending schemes. It was announced at the conference that on-the-spot decisions were taken on the formation of seven village roads, sinking of five wells, and opening of three schools.

The Chief Minister also announced that he had received about 500 petitions and would dispose them after conferring with the block officials on May 19, 1957. He assured the villagers that the Government would spare no pains to proivide amenities to the villagers.

The first Firka Level Conference has created a profound impression in the minds of the people who have come to know with a sense of urgency that they as a body must in the first instance think for themselves about their various requirements and also be prepared with their efforts after which only it will be possible for the block level staff to push through the programmes.

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Progress of Rural Electrification . . .

(*Continued from page* 4)

proposed there is commissioned. So, to meet our further needs new sources have to be tapped and a sum of Rs. 24 lakhs has been set apart for the investigation of new hydro-electric schemes. Two of the most important schemes under investigation are the Mettur Tunnel Scheme to utilise the irrigation discharge at Mettur Dam which will give 200,000 k.w. of seasonal power for 7 months and the Kumbar-Amaravathi Hydro-Electric Scheme in the Palni Hills which will add 45,000 k.w. to the grid.

Madras at the end of the Plan period.

When the schemes in the Second Plan are completed, the installed capacity, the aggregate demand, units generated and the length of lines will all be more than doubled. The grid is expected to cater power to about 7 lakhs of consumers. In rural parts about 8,000 villages and about 57,000 pumpsets will derive the benefit of electricity. The per capita consumption of electricity which is a recognised index of the economic advance of any State is now 21 units for the Madras State and it is hoped to raise this figure to 50 units by the end of the Second Plan period. We will be still far behind the Western countries where the per capita consumption is of the order of 2,000 to 5,000 units. We have therefore to go a long way ahead if we are to attain a standard anywhere near that of the Western countries.

With the unremitting efforts of all concerned we hope to march ahead in the field of socio-economic development of our State by the spread of electricity and raise the standard of living of the common man and bring brightness and happiness to every home.

The four electricity systems of the State electrified 138 villages during January 1957; and among the service connections given, 1,171 were for agricultural purposes, 2,471 domestic and 112 industrial. 118 miles of H.T. and 202 miles of L.T. lines were energised to carry electricity to more villages. A total of 106·945 m. units of electricity was generated during the month.

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mute, infirm and the blind too wanted to have their say in the matter. Their efforts to reach the polling booth employing queer modes of transport were eloquent of the political sense of the people.

After a month of hectic propaganda by the political parties and independents contesting the elections, the atmosphere settled down peacefully on the polling day. The voters displayed remarkable restraint and business sense. The dignified behaviour of the candidates and their agents coupled with the vigilance of the authorities went a long way to ensure peaceful elections. The long and firm hand of law was ever hold in readiness to deal with miscreants and trouble-makers but happily there were no occasions for the same.

India is the biggest democracy in the world with nearly 200 million voters a substantial majority of whom are illiterates. The act of giving the right of self-determination to an illiterate voter was viewed with grave misgivings even by those who had respect for democracy. The voters of India have firmly belied these apprehensions by going to the polls for the second time to elect the men and women of their choice in the most democractic way. Many a foreign visitor including Heads of States paid tributes to the orderly and dignified behaviour of voters during the elections.

About 38·4 per cent of the voters exercised their franchise in the polling held in Madras City on March 8 to elect 10 members to the State Assembly and 2 members to Lok Sabha, according to figures available with the Returning Officer. Out of 921,985 electors in the City, 354,453 cast their votes on that day in 1,078 polling stations spread over the various parts of the City.

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institution and it is hoped that with his experience and knowledge in the craft, the institution will work successfully andproduce best craftsmen in this trade. In addition to the training given in the institute, it is also proposed to take the students to various places to study the workof the ancient masters of this craft. The training will be of an advance kind, but different from the stereo-typed arts school and will try to incorporate something of the ancient Indian spirit that laid stress not so much on mechanical perfection of outward form, but the eloquent expression of the inner reality. It is therefore proposed to give to the trainees a fairly intensive course in the main concepts of Indian Philosophy also in order that the Indian tradition and the true significance of the various God-forms, postures, mudras, symbols, etc.

The Sculpture Training Centre is established at an estimated cost of Rs. 26,600 non-recurring and Rs. 35,842 recurring per annum for a period of three years. The Government of India have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 44,442 to the State Government for this scheme.

Sanction is also accorded to the incurring of an expenditure of Rs. 46,500 to acquire land and buildings, for the payment of stipends and travelling allowance to trainees and buying raw materials, furniture and setting up a library of Literature on Sculpture.

(*Continued from page* 5)

acres of reserved forest area given by the Madras Government free of cost. Specific schemes of rehabilitation of displaced persons have been sanctioned; construction of quarters for officers, staff and workers is in progress; and a tentative general lay-out plan for the township and the industrial area has been drawn up.

The integrated lignite project will provide employment for about 10,000 people comprising skilled personnel of various grades and types, unskilled labour, trading and professional personnel serving the project township. The scheme for running a special technical and industrial school in the project which would train skilled personnel of certain types and grades for employment in the operation and maintenance of the various production units and the township is also under consideration.

Further experiments as to the best method of drilling development and screening of wells are proposed to be carried out as soon as the necessary equipment, for which orders have been placed, are received. Once the results of these tests are known the decision will be taken on the most economic pattern of wells to be adopted in actual mining operations. As stated already, early in 1960 is the scheduled time by which the lignite seam in the first cut is expected to be exposed and by the middle of that year the quantity required for the first unit of the thermal station will be mined.

Art Exhibition In The School Of Arts

By SRI K. N. RAMACHANDRAN.

The Art Exhibition of the outgoing students of the School of Arts and Crafts, Madras, is now on view at the School Hall. This is an interesting annual feature to all art lovers and in addition it helps to convey a picture of the activities and achievements of the school year by year. The current exhibition reveals that the school has been keeping up the high standard and variety for which it is well known.

There are over 250 exhibits including oils, water-colours, sculptures and drawings which provide a cross section of the best work turned out by the outgoing students of the institution during the last 12 months. A refreshing variety of style is very evident. These range from pure Western abstraction to downright photographic realism and cover between them all the and bear the stamp of the influence of national as well as Western art tradition and influence. One very noticeable and healthy feature is the absence of inane imitations of traditional 'Indian Art' which would surely be an anachronism now. But this attitude has not been extended sufficiently to the Western school also. There are some exhibits which show that some of the students still cling to the values of Western academic realism which in the countries of its origin is a dead force now. Similarly the abstract values of the Paris school have in some cases been reproduced *in toto*. This effort though they display the technical skill of the artist in arrangement yet leaves the onlooker dissatisfied and sometimes openly distrustful of the sincerity of artist. Exotic objects and values too may be 'catchy' and appear spuriously original, but it is not very laudable to trade on these. A more charitable view would be to treat such attempts as mere experiments. And it is hoped such artists would soon come back to a style that is truly contemporary: one that bears the stamp of national tradition and present day life influenced and modulated by the impact of the Western values which also is reality of the Indian scene in all walks of life including that of Art. It is heartening to note that there are many students who have proceeded truly and well along this line.

Coming to the works of individual artists it is difficult in the space of a short article to dwell upon each. A few however deserve special mention as artists with distinct promise. The oil colour medium has attracted the majority of painters. The response to colour, so characteristic of Madras painters, is seen very well in the works in this medium. Impressionist and Fauve influences too are much in evidence. Sri P. Perumal with some good works to his credit steals the show. His 'Nungambakum Canal' is a brilliant bit of landscape which display good technique and bears a distinctly personal stamp and emotional appeal. The 'portrait of a peasant girl' is another notable work of this artist who shows very good promise. L. Seetharam's 'Landscape' with its hatchings of pleasing colours and sober strength of technique shows a maturity well ahead of his years in the art field. S. R. D. Prasad Rao's works with their pleasing simplicity, naivette and disarming air of ease have a charm all their own. T. Krishna Rao's 'Descending cart' is a simple direct statement expressed with vigour. P. G. K. Butt has some excellent landscapes to his credit.

There are some good portraits in water colour, oils and charcoal. G. D. Somanath Rao is outstanding in this section with his powerfully executed heads in water colour which at the same time display a highly commendable delicacy of taste and skill. L. Shanmugasundaram and K. Shanmugasundaram show promise. A. K. Rama Varma has some good portrait sketches to his credit. P. Narayanan's portraiture is noteworthy for the stark dramatic content embodied. T. Krishna Rao has put up some good portraits.

Sri L. Munuswamy has exhibited some near abstract paintings which capture attention. Padmanabhan Pillay has exhibited, little, compact patterns in fresh water colour. A. S. Jagannathan's abstractions in pastels occupy the place of honour in the exhibition. Srinivasa Sarma has some excellent studies in pastels to his credit. These display considerable ease and elegance. His ink drawings are very interesting and breathe out a charm distinctly individual. D. Satchidanandam displays a distinctive colour sense in his landscapes particularly. "Landscape" depicting an overbridge by George Livingstone with its monochrome effect shows the dramatic possibilities of an everday subject.

There are some excellent works in the Commercial Arts Section with fine designs for Book Jackets, show cards, Tourist pamphlets, Textiles, etc. M. Pakkiri's textile design is very interesting. Moulana Jan, Purushothama Rao, Surendra and Ganesan reveal that they are very competent in this line.

Training Centres for Papier Mache Toys

The Government have sanctioned the establishment of two Training Centres, one at Cuddalore and the other at Tanjore for the training of 16 candidates in each centre in the art of making paper toys and papier mache articles like powder boxes, cigarette boxes, electric lamp stands, writing sets, finger bowls, toilet sets, flower vases, ash trays, wall lamps, with shade and many other items, as is done in Japan, Kashmir and Rajasthan. The training will be for a period of one year and each trainee will be paid a stipend of Rs. 25 per month. The Centres will be run departmentally for one year and then converted into industrial co-operatives. The entire expenditure on the schemes amounting to Rs. 40,660 is being met by the Government of India.

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